

## Rights group calls to lift restrictions on Palestinians

NEW YORK (AFP) — Human Rights Watch/Middle East called Friday on Israel to lift restrictions on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, calling them the equivalent of "town arrest." "These new measures reduce whole communities to a form of town arrest, imposing hardship on hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians," the New York-based rights groups said in a statement. Israel restricted the movement of Palestinian people and goods in the wake of the July 30 suicide bombing at a Jerusalem market that killed 13 civilians. "By blocking the movement of people and goods, including food and medical supplies, Israel is indiscriminately punishing entire communities and violating its obligations as an occupying power... to ensure that the food and health needs of the population be met," the statement said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## 14 Islamists rounded up in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian authorities have arrested over the past week 14 fugitive Islamist militants, including one sentenced to death in absentia for the murder of a Catholic school prefect, police sources said Saturday. Several of the suspects were arrested as they tried to return to Egypt from abroad with fake passports, the sources said. Eight of them, including convicted murderer Al-Gharib Al-Shahat Al-Johari, belong to Egypt's main Islamist group Al-Qamaa Islamiya, while two are members of Al-Jihad group and four belong to the Takfir Wa Hija group, they said.

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## Lebanon accuses Israel of intentional killing of civilians, planning sabotage

Combined agency dispatches

LEBANESE FOREIGN Minister Faris Bouez accused Israel Saturday of intentionally killing Lebanese civilians to wreck a 1996 ceasefire.

"I am talking about accurate information obtained through wiretapping... of Israeli and pro-Lahad [Israel's South Lebanon Army militia] conversations in which orders were given to hit at civilians," Mr. Bouez told reporters.

"There is a clear decision to shell civilians and try to wreck the security understanding," Mr. Bouez said. The April 1996 ceasefire ended a 17-day Israeli onslaught in which about 200 Lebanese were killed. Under the terms of the ceasefire, Israel and pro-Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas agreed not to target civilians.

Between Monday and Thursday, seven Lebanese civilians were killed by Israeli artillery and bombs planted by unknown assailants. On Friday, Karyusha rockets hit northern Israel, wounding a woman. Hizbollah (party of God) said it did not fire the rockets.

Since the rocket attack, Israeli planes have attacked bases of both Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command.

"We have information that

several Israeli helicopters flew overnight over the area of Baalbek... and landed to prepare for certain plans in this area," Mr. Bouez said. He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "wants to distract attention from the occupied territories to south Lebanon and halt implementation of the Oslo accords" with the Palestinians.

"He is looking to open a front against Lebanon and probably against Syria," Mr. Bouez said.

He spoke shortly before Israeli warplanes rocketed a Hizbollah base south of the town of Baalbek, five kilometres from the Lebanese-Syrian border in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

A Hizbollah guerrilla was killed and four wounded in the air assault, the 50th into Lebanon this year, Hizbollah sources said.

A day earlier Israeli warplanes hit a PFLP-GC base south of Beirut. No one was injured in that attack, the Palestinian group said.

Mr. Bouez also accused Palestinian President Yasser Arafat of assisting Mr. Netanyahu in inflaming the situation in south Lebanon. Al Quds Press, based in Nicosia, reported that the bombers who killed 13 people and themselves in a Jerusalem market last month came from the Ain Al Hilweh Lebanese camps, and Mr. Arafat announced Friday that Israel had told him the two came from



Lebanese women cry Friday at the funeral of a woman who was killed along with her two children in the explosion of a roadside bomb in the village of Marqaba in southern Lebanon on Thursday (AFP photo)

abroad.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai insisted Saturday that Israel wanted to keep a lid on the violence, just hours before U.S. envoy Dennis Ross was due in the region on a peace mission.

"Our goal is not to provoke a deterioration, but a stabilisation of the situation in order to guarantee calm and security for the areas in

the north of the country," he said.

Israeli Radio said the army decided not to launch a massive reprisal operation in Lebanon, but would continue to attack "terrorist concentrations" there.

The U.S. State Department on Friday urged all sides in south Lebanon including Syria to show "maximum restraint" after

the rocket attacks.

"We've been in contact with all the parties directly to urge maximum restraint," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Some 360,000 Palestinian refugees live in 12 camps across Lebanon, many belonging to anti-Arafat factions opposed to the current peace accords with Israel.

## Palestinian council calls for creation of 'national service'

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian legislators called Saturday for the creation of a "national service" to bolster security and the defence of the self-rule territories.

The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) voted unanimously for the motion and asked its legal committee to draft legislation on the service, which would have to be approved by President Yasser Arafat, PLC member Hazni Shuaibi told Agence France Presse.

Young Palestinian men and women would be required to do national ser-

vice after they complete their studies for a period of six months to a year, he said.

"Young people could also support security forces and train to participate in the defence of the Palestinian territories," Mr. Shuaibi said.

Mr. Arafat commands several thousand police officers as part of Palestinian security forces but no military service has yet been set up in the self-rule areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The call for the creation of "national service" comes at time of heightened ten-

sions between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority following twin suicide bombings in Jerusalem last month which killed 15 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has slapped crippling sanctions on the Palestinian territories, including a strict closure and threats to forcefully enter self-rule areas to arrest suspected terrorists.

Mr. Arafat warned that such a move would be an act of war and attended a exercise this week of Palestinian security forces training to counter any Israeli incursion.

## Israel eases blockade of W. Bank towns hours before Ross arrival

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel announced Saturday that it will further ease its blockade of Palestinian towns on the West Bank only hours ahead of the scheduled arrival here of U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross.

The military blockade on the northern West Bank towns of Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqilya will be lifted as of 4 a.m. Sunday, the Israeli army said, allowing Palestinians in those communities to travel to other self-rule areas.

This follows Israel's lifting on Friday of its blockade on the West Bank towns of Jericho and Nablus, as well as reopening border crossings into Jordan and Egypt.

But Israel has maintained harsh restrictions imposed on other Palestinian areas after last week's Jerusalem

bombing. The latest measures came as Mr. Ross was due in Israel late Saturday in a bid to prevent the complete collapse of the peace process between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Mr. Ross is to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at 8 a.m. on Sunday, followed by talks with Palestinian leaders, officials said.

Israel also began Friday allowing Palestinians to move through the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, a Palestinian security official said.

Israel had earlier softened its total closure of Rafah to allow Palestinians residing abroad to move through it, but since Friday morning Gaza residents were also permitted once more to cross, the official said.

A Jordanian official said, however, on Saturday that the Allenby bridge, which links Jordan and the West Bank, is still closed off by Israel to Palestinians wanting to enter the self-rule areas.

On Friday, an Israeli army spokeswoman said that the bridge had been reopened to pedestrians subject to "tight security checks" following its closure after July 30 suicide bombings in Jerusalem that killed 15 people.

"Allenby Bridge is still closed to people wanting to enter the autonomous Palestinian territories except tourists and those holding Jerusalem identity cards issued by Israel," a senior Jordanian security source was quoted by Jordan's official Petra News Agency as saying.

## Ross comes to Mideast amidst dispute over mission purpose

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross was due here late Saturday in an attempt to salvage the crisis-hit peace process, but Israel and the Palestinians were at odds over the main focus of his visit.

Israel said that Mr. Ross would concentrate solely on pushing the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to dismantle Islamist groups after the July 30 suicide bombing in Jerusalem that left 15 dead.

But the Palestinians, groaning under the weight of crushing Israeli sanctions imposed after the bombing, insisted the U.S. troubleshooter address the whole of the autonomy accords and Israel's punitive measures.

Mr. Ross is to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 8:00 o'clock Sunday morning before travelling to the West Bank town of Ramallah for talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

His visit, originally planned for a week ago, was put off after the double bombing of a Jerusalem market which Israel has blamed on Islamist militants in the Palestinian territories.

Before his arrival, Uzi Arad, Mr. Netanyahu's policy advisor, said, "Mr. Ross's mandate is limited to security issues and ways to convince the Palestinian [National] Authority that it must respect its commitments to fight against terrorists."

"The resolution of security issues is a prior condition of any resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians," he said.

The U.S. State Depart-



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat points his finger during an interview with Reuters and CNN Saturday just hours before the arrival of U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross. He was saying: "Our people will not kneel" (Reuters photo)

ment also said its envoy would "exclusively focus on security cooperation."

"If [the Palestinians] don't go about cooperating in the area of security, if they don't provide 100 per cent effort, they will not be doing their share of the bargain that is implicit" in the Oslo autonomy accords, State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

However, Palestinian officials said Mr. Ross should also look at Israel's side of the bargain in the autonomy accords.

"The question of security is [just] one of the elements

on autonomy that must be taken into consideration," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

The Palestinians also want the U.S. to pressure Israel into lifting its punishing sanctions on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a first step towards resuming peace talks.

The Palestinian position which will be expressed to Mr. Ross is that a lifting of the blockade must precede any other negotiations," Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, block-

aded Palestinian-ruled towns on the West Bank and froze tax repayments owed to the cash-strapped PNA after the Jerusalem bombing.

Mr. Arafat slammed the sanctions as Israeli "state terrorism" at a meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah on Saturday.

And while he said he was willing to agree to security cooperation with Israel, "we cannot accept the Israeli government's idea of making me a new General Lahad," he added, in a reference to Antoine Lahad, the leader of the Israeli-allied south Lebanon Army militia.

The U.S. has described Israel's sanctions against the Palestinians as counterproductive.

"We have said that we regard the closure that harms the Palestinian people themselves as unwise," State Department

spokesman Rubin said.

Mr. Rubin added that the Israelis "have said that they will look at ways to ease that closure as the Palestinians improve their security cooperation."

But Mr. Netanyahu's advisor Mr. Arad said that "for the moment, Ross will not make any demands of Israel."

Israel says that Hamas and Islamic Jihad were responsible for the July 30 attack although investigators have yet to identify the bombers.

Mr. Arafat has repeatedly insisted that the bombers came from abroad, but Israeli officials rejected his claim Saturday saying he was trying to get out of his security commitments.

"Yasser Arafat has the greatest interest in claiming that the terrorists came from abroad, to try to play down the Palestinian [National] Authority's responsibility" for the bombing, Mr. Arad told Israeli Radio.

### Arafat accuses Israel of state terrorism, says cannot become another Lahad

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat Saturday accused Israel of "state terrorism" over the crippling sanctions slapped on the Palestinian territories after the Jerusalem suicide bombing. "The blockade imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territories constitutes state terrorism," Mr. Arafat told a meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Israel restricted the movement of Palestinian people and goods and halted transfers of funds to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) after the July 30 suicide bombing at a crowded Jerusalem market that killed 13 civilians. "But we cannot accept the Israeli government's idea of making me a new General Lahad," Mr. Arafat said in reference to Antoine Lahad, the leader of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. "We don't want just bilateral cooperation but would like the presence of other parties," he said, adding that the United States and Europe could be part of a security committee which would be able to "witness our goodwill."

## 31 killed in Turk-Kurd fighting

ANKARA (AFP) — Thirty-one people have been killed in clashes between security forces and Kurdish separatist rebels in south-east Turkey, government officials said Saturday.

Army troops killed 23 members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in fighting in a rugged area in the province of Sirnak bordering Iraq, the southeast's regional governor's office said.

It did not say when the fighting took place or if there were casualties on the government side.

The Turkish army, which entered northern Iraq in May and stayed there for five weeks in an operation to wipe out PKK bases, earlier this week launched a large-scale military campaign against the rebels on the Turkish side of the border.

Earlier on Saturday, the Anatolian news agency quoted local officials as saying four PKK members and three pro-government Kurdish guards were killed in a clash late Friday near the southeastern town of Hakkari where the Turkish,

Iraqi and Iranian borders converge.

One policeman was killed and two others were injured near Hakkari Saturday when their armoured vehicle hit a mine believed to be placed by the PKK, the officials said.

More than 25,000 people, including rebels, members of the security forces and civilians, have been killed in violence in the southeast of the country since 1984 when the PKK launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland.



ROVER MAKES TRACKS: This colour image of the Sojourner Rover was taken on planet Mars at the end of the day on Sol 30, Friday. The Rover is perched on top of Mermalid Dune, a dark material distinct from the surrounding bright surface. Dark red Rover tracks extend from the foreground to the base of the Rover's wheels (Reuters photo)





SHOW OF TOY MUSCLE: Palestinian scouts holding toy guns march in the centre of Nablus in the West Bank Saturday to protest against the maintained harsh sanctions imposed on Palestinians since last week following a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed 15 people (see stories on page 1) (AFP photo)

## Iraq gives overtures for better relations with Iran — papers

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi government newspapers urged Iran Saturday to respond to an overture from President Saddam Hussein for improved ties between the two neighbours.

"Iraq is ready to turn a new page with Iran if it resolves the issue of prisoners of war and respects the Arabs," wrote the daily Babel, run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday.

In a speech to mark the ninth anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, President Saddam called on new Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to live up to his promise of improved foreign relations by mending fences with Iraq.

Babel said: "We are waiting" for a response from Tehran.

The official daily Al Jumhuriyah also urged Iran to "open a new era of cooperation with Iraq in the interests of the region."

Iran and Iraq have yet to sign a peace treaty, a full nine years since an August 1988 ceasefire brokered by the U.N. that ended their eight-year war.

Ties are still strained by the issue of prisoners of war and missing persons from the conflict as well as Iraqi planes sent for shelter in Iran during the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq says it sent 115 warplanes and 33 other aircraft to Iran to escape allied bombing raids, but Tehran says it has only 22 Iraqi planes and is yet to return them.

"The non-return of these planes would be strategic error by Iran," Al Jumhuriyah warned.

Iraq also accuses Iran of still holding 20,000 prisoners of war. Iran, for its part, complains that there are still 5,000 Iranian POWs in Iraq and has given no figures for Iraqis in its jails.

## Saddam is a 'dictator' says Iranian newspaper

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper close to the government on Saturday described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a "dictator" and rejected his call for Tehran to improve relations with Baghdad.

"Observers in Iran are surprised to see such a declaration by a dictator who ignores even the most rudimentary international norms," Iran News said.

President Saddam called on Iran's new President Mohammad Khatami to prove Tehran's desire to improve its relations with Baghdad with "concrete action."

In a televised address to mark the anniversary of the end of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, President Saddam called on Tehran to exchange its policy of "expansion, interference and deceit" with one of "cooperation" with Iraq.

"We are not content to hear from present Iranian officials words without deeds," President Saddam said, promising reciprocal Iraqi action to any Iranian gesture.

Mr. Khatami said after being sworn in on Monday that he wanted a "detente" in Iran's relations with foreign countries. Iran and Iraq have yet to sign a peace treaty, a full nine years since an August 1988 ceasefire brokered by the U.N. that ended their eight-year war.

Iran news said relations between the two countries were at a standstill because of the issue of prisoners of war from the conflict and Baghdad's support for Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mujahideen.

## Islamists' spiritual leader backs call for end to violence in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The spiritual leader of Egypt's main armed Islamist group has voiced support for a call by six key militants to end the Islamic violence that erupted in Egypt in 1992. Al Hayat newspaper reported Saturday.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is serving a life sentence in a U.S. jail for his role in a terrorist plot against the U.S., said he "supports the call made by the young for an end to the violence," Al Hayat said.

"We must meet this request," Al Hayat said, quoting from a statement which it said was signed by the spiritual guide of

Egypt's Jamaa Islamiyah group.

The cleric's U.S. lawyer, Ramsey Clarke, confirmed the statement to Al Hayat and said Abdul Rahman had asked him to tell the media on his behalf, "I bless the call for a stop to violence and ask others to back this call."

At the start of a trial on July 5 of 97 militants accused of murder and other offences, six founding members of the Jamaa Islamiyah called for a halt to the Islamist violence.

"We were waiting for Sheikh Omar's opinion. If this is his opinion then it is good. It will help give a

push to the initiative [to stop the violence]," the cleric's lawyer in Egypt, Muntasser Al Zayat, told Agence France Presse Saturday.

"He spoke to his sons a few days ago and told them that soon he would give an opinion," he said.

After the July 5 announcement, Mr. Al Zayat said the call was made because the militants "want their country to be ready for its main battle against Israel."

But the leaders abroad of Jamaa Islamiyah and the Jihad, another Egyptian Islamist group, said they would continue their strug-

gle, describing the call to end violence as a "plot against the Islamic current."

The headline Egyptian group Jihad Tala'a Al Fatah (vanguard of the conquest) also refused to lay down their arms.

"The holy war being waged by Muslims against tyranny and evil-doers cannot be halted because of an appeal, whoever made it," the group said in the August issue of its Arabic language news bulletin received in London.

More than 1,200 people have been killed in the violent campaign by Islamists to overthrow Egypt's secular government.

## Syrian press praises Albright on remarks over land-for-peace

'Remarks bring back to mind the real essence of peace and its bases'

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian newspapers Saturday praised U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's remarks that Middle East peace should be based on land-for-peace and urged Washington to play the role of the honest broker.

Official newspapers, ahead of a visit by peace envoy Dennis Ross, said Washington should pressure Israel to hand back occupied Arab lands to revive the battered peace process.

"[The remarks] are a step in the right way," the official daily Al Thawra said.

"Mrs. Albright's remarks are important because they bring back to mind the real essence of peace and its bases, and at the same time they confirm the U.S. commitment to just and comprehensive peace."

Ms. Albright said on Wednesday, "we seek a just and lasting peace achieved through direct negotiations, based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, including the principle on which every Arab-Israeli agreement has been built: land-for-peace."

Sporadic Syrian-Israeli peace talks ground to a halt when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, elected in 1996, rejected withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967. Syria demands full withdrawal.

The U.S. sponsored Arab-Israeli peace talks opened in Madrid in 1991, based on the land-

for-peace principle.

Mr. Ross is due to arrive in the region Saturday to diffuse tension after Israel reacted to a twin bombing in Jerusalem by sealing the West Bank and Gaza and freezing financial transactions.

The English language daily Syria Times said Syria wants an agreement ensuring the return of the Golan Heights, adding that a U.S. decision was required to solve the Middle East crisis.

"A clear decision is needed now to break the spiral ill-will of the Israeli government," it said.

"Syria asks for a full and comprehensive agreement that could not be subject to future negotiations," it said.

The official newspapers also condemned Israel's attacks on Lebanon, calling on Arabs and the international society to show solidarity with Lebanon.

"It is time that efforts were met to save south Lebanon from Israel's aggressions," the Tishreen daily said.

"Solidarity campaigns should be translated into action to tighten the isolation of Israel and hold it responsible for the escalation and deterioration of the situation."

"As long as Israel dismisses all calls to stop its aggressive and provocative practices... then it is the right and the duty of the Lebanese people to continue resisting occupation," it said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### King visits armed forces in the south

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the armed forces, on Saturday inspected several Jordanian Armed Forces units in the southern region. King Hussein was briefed on the duties and the military drills of these units.

### Inmate killed in Turkish prison riot

ANKARA (AFP) — One prisoner was killed Saturday as security forces put down a riot in a southern Turkish jail in which five wardens had been taken hostage by inmates. The Anatolian News Agency (ANA) reported. Fighting broke out between inmates and wardens in the top security jail in Adana, 400 kilometres south of Ankara, late Friday, the ANA said. It was not known why the trouble started. One prisoner was killed as military police intervened and rescued the wardens. Another warden was injured. No other details were immediately available. Five prisoners were killed and five were injured in another riot in an Istanbul jail on July 9.

### 24 Iranians arrested trying to sneak into Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait coastguards have arrested 24 Iranians caught trying to infiltrate into the Gulf emirate, the interior ministry said Saturday. Kuwait, which has not yet fixed its maritime border with Iran, regularly catches Iranians trying to get into the oil-rich country on board small boats.

### 3 Filipinos jailed, to be expelled for illicit affair

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Filipino and two compatriot women have been jailed for three months in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for having an illicit affair and will be deported, Al Khaleej newspaper reported Saturday. Police in the northern emirate of Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman arrested the three in a raid at the Filipino's farmhouse, the paper said. "Police ambushed the two Filipinas as they went into the house of the man of the same nationality. They were sentenced to three months in prison and would be deported after they were convicted of an illicit relationship." The newspaper did not identify the three or give further details about the incident. Nearly 90,000 expatriates from the Philippines work in the oil-rich UAE, mostly as housemaids and construction labourers.

### Floods kill seven in eastern Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Floods killed seven people and injured scores of others late Friday in an eastern Turkish province bordering Armenia, a private television station reported Saturday. The floods hit three townships in the province of Agri, damaging more than 100 homes, NTV said. This was the worst natural disaster to affect the region in decades, it said.

## Iranian girls attacked by acid to appeal against court verdict

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two Iranian sisters injured in an acid attack are to appeal against a court verdict condemning their attacker to the same fate because they want a harsher punishment, a newspaper said Saturday.

The court had ruled that Faezeh, 17, and her 10-year-old sister could hurl acid in the hired hitman's

face under the Islamic Law of Talion which allows victims or their families to exact the same punishment as the crime.

But the family is furious that the man who ordered the acid attack which completely disfigured the girls and burned parts of their bodies, Hamid Khoshnevis, was only jailed for 15 years. The government

newspaper Iran said.

Mr. Khoshnevis paid Hitman Mahmoud Jafari \$2,000 to carry out the attack in February after the family refused to let him marry the eldest girl.

"The man who ordered this horrific crime should also be severely punished," Faezeh said, quoted by the newspaper.

"I will have revenge and

do the same thing to Hamid Khoshnevis," she said. A third man was sentenced to three years in jail and 10 years exile near the Iranian-Pakistani border for driving a getaway vehicle after the attack in a Tehran street.

The two girls have undergone several operations to their face and body since the attack.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Cartoons  
15:00 .....Energy Express  
16:00 .....American Chart Show  
18:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headline  
19:35 .....Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
20:00 .....Cinema, Cinema, Cinema  
20:30 .....National Geographic  
21:10 .....Renegade  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....One West Waikiki  
23:15 .....Sisters

### PRAYER TIMES

04:25 .....Fajr  
05:51 .....(Sunrise) Doha  
12:41 .....Dhuhr  
16:21 .....Asr  
19:31 .....Maghreb  
20:56 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweetfish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 773111-19

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14:10 .....Cartoons  
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Armenian Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh .....736011  
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain .....623029  
Dr. Hisham Kan'an .....790286  
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour .....699440  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nairokh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....649454  
Yacoub pharmacy .....637660  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....847632  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir .....276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Akram Haddad .....985550  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Relative warm weather will prevail with temperatures 2-3 degrees above seasonal average. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

### MIN/MAX. TEMP.

Amman .....22/34  
Aqaba .....27/40  
Deserts .....18/36  
Jordan Valley .....25/40  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 35, Aqaba 41 Humidity

### READINGS: AMMAN 32 per cent. Aqaba 28 per cent.

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AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh .....736011  
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ain .....623029  
Dr. Hisham Kan'an .....790286  
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour .....699440  
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### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (522700)

ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
10:05 .....Bombay (RJ)  
10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:15 .....Lamaca (RJ)  
10:25 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:45 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:10 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
17:40 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:50 .....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)  
18:05 .....Paris (RJ)  
18:50 .....London (RJ)  
19:05 .....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
19:10 .....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
19:10 .....Athens (RJ)  
20:10 .....Chicago, Detroit, Amsterdam (RJ)  
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20:50 .....Rome (RJ)  
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### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:00 .....Madrid (RJ)  
06:45 .....Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 .....Lamaca (RJ)  
11:50 .....Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:10 .....Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:15 .....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
12:40 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:45 .....Rome (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Wings (RW)  
08:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
10:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
10:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
19:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
22:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
23:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

### OTHER FLIGHTS

12:00 .....Sanaa (TY)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
13:25 .....Bahrain (GF)  
14:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
15:20 .....Moscow (SU)  
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:35 .....Cairo (MS)  
23:20 .....Istanbul (TK)  
00:59 .....Cairo (MS)  
02:15 .....London (BA)  
07:20 .....London (BA)  
07:20 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
10:05 .....Bombay (RJ)  
10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:15 .....Lamaca (RJ)  
10:25 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:45 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
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23:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

The Prime Minister's office has issued a statement saying that the cabinet will meet on Sunday to discuss the new measures to be taken in the wake of the recent developments in the Middle East. The statement said that the cabinet will also discuss the issue of the recent developments in the Middle East and the need to take appropriate measures to deal with the situation. The statement also mentioned that the cabinet will discuss the issue of the recent developments in the Middle East and the need to take appropriate measures to deal with the situation.

## Police ap

By Rana Hussein  
The police have issued a statement saying that they are aware of the recent developments in the Middle East and are taking appropriate measures to deal with the situation. The statement said that the police are aware of the recent developments in the Middle East and are taking appropriate measures to deal with the situation. The statement also mentioned that the police are aware of the recent developments in the Middle East and are taking appropriate measures to deal with the situation.

## Suspected kil

By Rana Hussein  
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## FLOODS

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## JERASH FESTI

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## CONCERT



## Cabinet briefed on new visa measures at border posts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet was Saturday briefed on new measures adopted at border posts to facilitate tourist entry into the Kingdom, including the issuance of visas and other customs procedures.

Minister of Finance Saleman Hafez told the regular Cabinet session, chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, that visitors receiving visas upon entry are no longer to be issued a receipt for visa fees, but rather stamps will be affixed to passports testifying to fees paid.

According to Mr. Hafez, procedures at the free trade zones are still causing difficulties for investors, however, work is underway to redress any such obstacles.

The Cabinet approved a memorandum signed by Jordan and Japan stipulating Japanese aid to the Kingdom in the form of fertil-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali

ers and farm machinery valued at \$2.1 million. This aid is to be channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture and is aimed at helping Jordan increase

its food output.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha to sign the memorandum on behalf of the Jordanian government.

The Council of Ministers endorsed a general draft agreement, signed by Jordan and the European Investment Bank, providing guidelines for technical and financial cooperation.

The Cabinet authorised Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf to sign the agreement.

The Council of Ministers approved the publication of Al Nahda magazine to represent the National Constitutional Party.

It also formed Jordan's delegation to attend an international ministerial seminar on postal services to be held in Geneva this October.

## Prince Hassan reiterates importance of containing crisis facing the peace talks

By Ghaila Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Saturday stressed the importance of containing the crisis facing the peace process so that progress can be made towards achieving a comprehensive peace capable of guaranteeing the rights of Palestinians and other peoples of the region.

The Crown Prince described the turning point at which the peace talks currently stand as leading to a comprehensive assessment of the situation in order to stimulate future talks.

"We will not be able to proceed to the discussion of basic issues — such as Jerusalem, refugees, and borders — unless we contain the current crisis and prevent those who would limit the peace process to a narrow definition of security from achieving their goal," Prince Hassan told Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Prince Hassan said that humanising the peace talks and addressing essential life-giving issues does not mean that the political aspect of the process will be ignored.

However, he added, addressing humanitarian issues would create a political environment conducive to the treatment of the political dimension.

Speaking to reporters after a visit to the Prime Ministry, the Prince detailed the security dimension as only part of the peace process, reiterating Jordan's unequivocal belief that there can be no security without peace just as there can be no peace without security.

"I reiterate that there is no peace without security and no security without peace," the Crown Prince



said. Prince Hassan praised Egypt's role, noting that Jordan and Egypt share the same stand on the crisis facing the peace process.

In response to a question, the Prince affirmed that His Majesty King Hussein stresses the importance of the American role in overcoming the current stalemate and approaching the situation in a way which would reflect the needs of the people of the region.

"We should turn the situation around and focus on political issues, security

issues and vital interests," he said.

Prince Hassan expressed his satisfaction with the reopening of bridges and passages as well as the consideration given to the movement of food and medicine.

The Prince expressed hope that the visit of the U.S. Special Envoy Dennis Ross to the region would yield positive results in pushing the peace process forward.

Prince Hassan said his visit to the Prime Ministry aimed at discussing the latest developments in the region with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Regarding local issues, the Prince praised the comprehensive methods and sectoral coordination undertaken by the government geared towards serving citizen interests.

Prince Hassan also attended part of the Saturday Cabinet meeting which tackled governorate issues, the municipalities as well as the government's commitment to prepare a topographic map of Jordan until the year 2020.

He also stressed the importance of the legal and institutional commitment to safeguard the requirements of environmental, industrial, health and agricultural sectors.

## Police apprehend arson suspect

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police have apprehended a 50-year-old individual who Saturday morning attempted to set fire to the cafeteria of a weekly tabloid, official sources said.

According to one source, the man, identified as Mohammad M., entered Shihan weekly newspaper's cafeteria carrying a gallon of kerosene, poured some of the flammable liquid on few chairs and ignited the same.

The suspect was immediately overpowered by a police patrol unit which had been cruising the neighbourhood, while cafeteria employees brought the fire under control, the official said.

No one was injured in the incident. Police are questioning Mohammad M. as regards to his motive for the attack, according to the official.

According to one newspaper

reporter, Mohammad M. visited Shihan last week, alleging that a man "of importance" had set fire to his Ajloun house.

In the Aug. 9 issue of Shihan, Mohammad M. was cited as stating that he had inherited a piece of land from his father.

He was subsequently "surprised to learn that the land was registered [under the name of this] influential person," according to the interview.

Mohammad M. asserted that he initiated litigation and recovered his land, "which angered this influential person, and prompted him to set fire to my house."

He maintained that he was sitting in the backyard of his house, and was suddenly surrounded by smoke and flames.

According to Mohammad M., his wife, mother and children, received minor burns as a result of the incident.

"How strange that this man would come to relate such a story, and then, upon its publication, become upset and want to set fire to the newspaper," the reporter stated. "It is possible that [Mohammad M.] did not like the portrayal of his dilemma in the article."

In November of 1994, four people, carrying several Molotov cocktails, attacked the same newspaper's premises, throwing a brick at the head of a guard. None of the Molotov cocktails were used in the attack.

Subsequent to being struck with the brick, the said guard reached for his gun and fired several shots in the air, at which time the intruders fled.

In other incidents in the Kingdom, CDD officials reported the Friday rescue of a goat from a cesspool in Irbid.

The goat, belonging to Daham Thulaj, was rescued without injury subsequent to a 30-minute rescue operation.

## Suspected killer referred to Criminal Court

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Criminal Prosecutor Zuhair Atiyat will refer the case of a 40-year-old man, who last May shot and killed his wife and four of his children in Karak for trial.

Awad M. reportedly opened fire on his family shortly after midnight on May 13, killing his 35-year-old wife Samar Salah, and his children Ahmad, seven, Basma, six, Sahar, one, and Ibrahim, four months.

"The case was recently transferred from the Karak criminal prosecutor to Mr. Atiyat, who is questioning the suspect and preparing the charge sheet in

order to transfer the case to the court," an official source said.

Official sources quoted Mr. M., who turned himself in to police shortly after the incident, as claiming that "he killed his wife and children to cleanse his honour."

The sources cited the suspect as claiming that a man knocked at his door late at night and that when he opened the door the man fled.

They added that Mr. M. suspected "the stranger as having a relationship with his wife and suspected that the children were not his."

Relatives of the accused, however, stated that Mr. M. held serious debts and that he shot his family for finan-

cial reasons.

A forensic examination performed on the four children indicated that each child was shot in the head at close range.

Further, the medical reports indicated that the mother died of a sole bullet wound to the chest.

Two of the suspect's children escaped the shooting spree with minor injuries.

Officials said Awad, a service taxi driver in Aqaba, had two additional children from a previous marriage.

The two children were on a visit to their mother in the Jordan Valley at the time of the incident.

## Despite financial constraints, the Fuheis Festival fêtes history, culture

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Facilitating the Fuheis Festival admittance process through better organisation while dividing and redesigning the central theatre, were the main concerns of the festival's administration this year, according to Festival Director Ayman Samawi.

"Limiting admittance to families, organising entrances to facilitate crowd movement and dividing the main theatre to ameliorate spectator views were also necessary modifications," Mr. Samawi explained.

This year the city will represent Jerusalem, Festival Secretary Issa Salman affirmed.

The city corner is decorated with doors of Jerusalem, he added.

The city corner exhibits a specific city every year to educate visitors as regards the history of Arab nations and cultures.

The corner will also boast an exhibition of slides with

pictures of the holy city, merchants selling souvenirs and art shows reproducing old traditions and culture, Mr. Salman explained.

Fuheis' eighth annual festival, under the theme "Jordan, its History and Civilization" is to be held between August 14-21 under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Samawi asserted.

The festival will include poetry recitals and cultural activities, he added.

There will also convene a special gathering to honour the individuals who help care for underprivileged children in Jordan, as part of the festival activities, Mr. Salman said.

A lecture about the Jordanian press and information revolution in the Kingdom, to be attended by intellectuals, is also scheduled, he explained.

There will be a corner for creative musical works, an environmental agricultural exhibition, sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as a tourist exhibition,

sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, and a one-day festival devoted to children who will be admitted at no charge, he confirmed.

The lack of financial resources is the major difficulty which the festival faces every year, Mr. Samawi asserted.

As an example he pointed to the Fuheis Band of Culture, established 12 years ago.

There are, he lamented, financial obstacles which deprive the band, with a total of 30 members, from continuing their progress academically and artistically.

Many members travel or marry and quit the band, he added. Therefore any chance of continuity without financial support is slim.

Last year, the band received a mere JD 380 of financial support from the Ministry of Culture, according to Mr. Salman.

Today the band has less than JD 25 in its coffers, a figure which impedes its chances of producing cre-

ative, artistic material, Mr. Samawi added.

The band often travels to the Jordanian desert, as well as other locations in the Kingdom, to compose new artistic material derived from the country's actual heritage, Mr. Salman stated.

However, these trips are no longer feasible due to the immense expenditures which they cannot accommodate, he added.

The band's participation has been deemed essential in the Fuheis Festival, however Mr. Samawi could offer no guarantees of its participation next year due to its current financial straits.

Festival organisers and the Fuheis youth club will attempt to convene a conference to discuss major topics concerning the festival, Mr. Samawi affirmed.

The conference is slated to include the Fuheis Youth Club as well as representatives of both the Fuheis and the Greater Amman Municipalities.

## Travel agents present requests to ministry, RJ

AQABA (Petra) — Heads of

tourist and travel agencies in southern Jordan Saturday presented a list of requests to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities as well as Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines.

These were related to work difficulties which, they claimed, are weakening the tourism industry.

Spokesperson Ahmad Taha Kabarti, who presented the list at a meeting here, attended by local government officials and representatives of private sector travel agencies, outlined the major obstacles facing these agencies.

While difficulties facing the tourist industry as a whole were covered, emphasis was placed on resolving those of the Aqaba tourism industry.

Mr. Kabarti requested the reduction of tariffs on water and electricity in Aqaba, a commission increase for agencies which sell tickets for ferry boats between Egyptian ports and Aqaba, a reduction in the cost of tourist services at hotels as well as the reduction of travel fares on Royal Jordanian flights.

The above steps, he said, would encourage tourists to visit Jordan's southern

regions.

President of the Jordan Travel Agents Association (JTAA) Lam'i Haddadin detailed the association's encouragement of the media attracting visitors to archaeological and tourist sites.

Aqaba Mayor Riad Helu bemoaned a lack of essential services for persons visiting the southern beaches of Aqaba.

However, he confirmed that the municipality is securing such services in conjunction with the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA).

According to Mr. Helu, the municipality has approached the authority for a plot of southern coast land in order to construct a scout camp with necessary utilities to attract Jordanian tourists.

Meeting participants decided to develop a follow-up committee to minimise any difficulties facing travel and tourist agencies in the south of Jordan.

According to Mr. Haddadin, the JTAA is planning to organise a national conference on tourism for marketing Jordan at home and abroad.

The meeting was organised by the association.

## ICARDA organising agricultural conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The

International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is organising a five-day international conference here, to begin Sept. 2, on agricultural growth, resource sustainability, and redressing poverty in areas with little rainfall in West Asia and North Africa.

ICARDA Regional Programme Coordinator Nasri Haddad maintained that participants will discuss four main topics and are expected to approve recommendations designed to help the region increase food production and protect the environment.

According to Mr. Haddad, the first topic covers policies to liberalise markets, the transfer of modern technology and achieving balanced socio-economic development.

The second topic focuses on strategies for drought management and as such participants will review programmes enacted by countries with experience in this field, in addition to discerning farmers' needs in drought-stricken areas as well as types of farming suitable for semi-arid and dry regions.

The third topic is concerned with pasture lands and their

development while the fourth topic will detail the role of modern technology in boosting food output in dry areas.

The meeting is to be held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan and attended by a large number of researchers, agricultural policy makers, and representatives of a number of regional and international organisations, according to Dr. Haddad.

Established in 1977, ICARDA is governed by an independent board of trustees and seeks to enhance and sustain food production while improving socio-economic conditions through strengthening national research systems in developing nations.

Based in Syria, ICARDA is one of 18 centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research — an international group of donor agency representatives, eminent scientists and institutional administrators from developed and developing countries who guide and support its work.

The conference is organised in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Haddad stated.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### JERASH FESTIVAL

\* Musical performance by the Musical Ensembles of the National Music Conservatory at the North Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Concert by Lebanese artist Nawal Al Zu'bi at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Jordanian play "Furthest son of Robin Hood" at Arquis Steps at 8:30 p.m.

\* Musical performance by Philadelphia University band at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Egyptian play entitled "Don't Shut the Curtain" (to be followed by musical performances by Ali Tawfiq and Khalid Youssef) at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

\* Musical performances by Jordanian band and an Egyptian circus show at the main square at 7:00 p.m.

\* Display of handicrafts and sculptures at Zeus Vault.

### CONCERT

\* Musical performance by The Family International at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\* "The Financial Policies in Jordan" by the minister of finance at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITION

\* Photography exhibition by Claudia Pedouli at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel: 647858) until Aug. 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqi minister visits Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Adnan Alani arrived here Saturday on a several-day official visit during which he is slated to attend the meetings of the general assembly of the Jordanian-Iraqi Industrial Company. Mr. Alani will also review economic cooperation between Jordan and Iraq.

### Voters must register by Aug. 15

AMMAN (Petra) — August 15 will be the deadline for registering eligible voters, according to Ministry of Interior sources. The ministry called on all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

### King Hussein Bridge remains closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein Bridge will remain closed to travellers to the Palestine National Authority (PNA)-ruled areas, according to Public Security Department (PSD) sources. The PSD affirmed that only tourists and Jerusalem ID holders will be permitted to use the bridge.

### Pakistani team arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Pakistani economic delegation arrives here today on an official visit to the Kingdom during which they will meet with Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf as well as leading Jordanian businesspersons and economists. The group will discuss methods of enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Pakistan.



# Holbrooke and Milosevic resume Bosnia face-off

BELGRADE (R) — U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke renewed his carrot and stick Balkan diplomacy Saturday, urging Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to live up to his commitments under the 1995 Dayton Peace Treaty.

Serbian state television showed footage of the start of a second round of talks between the two men with Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of the Bosnian presidency, also in attendance.

Mr. Krajisnik is the most powerful man in the Bosnian Serb Republic after Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb president and indicted war criminal.

His attendance showed that Bosnia and Mr. Karadzic figured high on the agenda.

"The discussions (with Mr. Milosevic) were intense as always," Mr. Holbrooke told reporters as he entered his hotel after Friday night's first round.

"It would not be fair to disclose anything at this time," added Mr. Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton treaty which ended the wars in Bosnia and Croatia.

Mr. Holbrooke and Mr. Milosevic, both adroit and ruthless players in peace diplomacy, matched wits for 3-1/2 hours before agreeing to an unscheduled extension of their talks Saturday morning.

The envoy and his staff had little sleep during the night, a U.S. official said.

One diplomat described the meeting as "the first round of a slugfest match."

Belgrade analysts said the fact that the talks were to be continued Saturday raised expectations of results and showed how high the stakes were, both for the fate of the peace accords and Yugoslavia's future.

But diplomats and Serbian officials familiar with Friday night's parley were cautious about the outcome.

"The price of compliance (with the Dayton accords) is very high," a senior Yugoslav source warned.

"I did not see anyone coming any closer (to agreement). We were nibbling away but no one ate well," he said of the talks, which took place over dinner in Mr. Milosevic's White Court Palace.

Diplomats expected Mr. Holbrooke threatened Mr. Milosevic with renewed economic sanctions unless he abided by his Dayton commitments, which include handing over his former protegee Mr. Karadzic and others wanted by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

Under a deal Mr. Holbrooke brokered a year ago, Mr. Karadzic should have stepped down and left politics.

But he has not, and still rules with an iron fist the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia, persistently circumventing the accords and undermining his successor as Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic.

Mr. Milosevic's choice is stark. Handing over Mr. Karadzic, revered by some 600,000 Serb refugees from Bosnia and Croatia, could be politically very damaging to him at home.

But his moribund economy cannot continue without a life-saving infusion of fresh capital for much longer and feed its 11 million people, of whom already one third are poor and another 600,000 starving.

"It pains us to see this happening — we don't want to do it (impose new sanctions)," the current U.S. envoy for former Yugoslavia, Robert Gelbard, said. He stressed the United States had "enormous sympathy" for the people of Yugoslavia.

"Holbrooke is bringing a bagful of carrots and sticks. It's up to Milosevic to choose which he would rather have," one diplomat said.

Mr. Milosevic also faced tough questioning about Serbia's handling of human rights in its mostly-Albanian populated province of Kosovo, freedom of the media in Serbia and the slow pace of democratic and economic reforms.

And Mr. Holbrooke is not giving him any maneuvering space. He ruled out a proposal from Mr. Karadzic that he be tried within Bosnia under international supervision.

Calling Mr. Karadzic's proposal "bizarre and totally unacceptable," Mr. Holbrooke told CNN the former

Bosnian Serb leader could expect no special deals.

"That is out of the question. He has got to be brought to justice," Mr. Holbrooke said in an interview from Belgrade.

Mr. Holbrooke flew into Belgrade Friday fresh from having resolved a row between Bosnia's ethnic leaders over diplomatic posts which had triggered a punitive international cut-off of contacts with Bosnian ambassadors.

Under the deal, a Muslim will be the Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations, a Serb will be ambassador to Washington and a Croat will be envoy to Japan, according to Mr. Holbrooke.

Mr. Holbrooke had come out of self-imposed "retirement" from the diplomatic service for the second time in a year to salvage key aspects of the peace treaty he engineered.

Members of Bosnia's multi-ethnic collective presidency also agreed on the composition of a joint military commission and on a single area code for Bosnia's telephone network to support a reintegration of the country envisaged by the peace pact.

"These agreements are full evidence of Western determination (to enforce the peace agreement)," Mr. Holbrooke told reporters after the agreement reached in Sarajevo. "These are steps forward, and pretty solid ones."



Diana Princess of Wales is surrounded by children in the Bosnian town of Tuzla, Friday. Princess Diana is on a private visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina to highlight the plight of victims of landmines (Reuters photo)

## Diana brings good news for Bosnian mine victim

TUZLA (R) — Britain's Princess Diana brought good news to a landmine victim Saturday as she toured Bosnia to highlight the danger of the weapons left over from war.

Princess Diana told Mohammed Soljankic on his 38th birthday that he would be receiving two artificial feet thanks to money raised by donations for Bosnians injured by mines.

Mr. Soljankic was wounded in a mine blast as a soldier at the beginning of the Bosnian War in 1992 and his disability has prevented him from finding work in peacetime, aid workers said.

The princess, dressed in a white shirt, denim jeans and tan shoes, smiled for cameras outside Mr. Soljankic's house in the northeastern town of Tuzla after delivering the news with a birthday cake.

But the former soldier and his wife admitted they did not recognise one of the world's most photographed women.

"I'm very happy but I don't know who Princess Diana is. I don't understand why they're all here," said Mr. Soljankic's wife, Ramiza, looking at the herd of British journalists and photographers who had gathered outside her modest home.

Neighbours came out to see what the fuss was as

photographers with long lenses stepped through hedges and climbed onto a shed to get a shot of the divorced princess, who is trying to promote her role as a roving humanitarian ambassador.

Princess Diana's trip to Bosnia came at a time when speculation about her love life hit new heights with London tabloids splashing photos of her with film producer Dodi Fayed, son of Egyptian tycoon Mohammed Al-Fayed, who owns London's luxury department store Harrods.

Her marriage to British royal heir Prince Charles ended in divorce in 1996 after 15 years.

The 36-year-old princess was invited by the Washington-based Landmine Survivors Network to raise awareness of the terrible toll caused by mines in a three-day visit to Bosnia, all of it in the territory of the Muslim-Croat Federation.

She was due to attend a "sitting" volleyball match between mine victims in the central town of Zenica later Saturday.

Ken Rutherford, American co-founder of the network who lost both his legs in Somalia in 1993, said Friday after a dinner meeting with Princess Diana that she would make a "huge difference" to the cause.

He said she knew all about the subject and had taken copious notes

throughout the meal with a group of 20 mine victims. "She's not faking. I'm a landmine victim myself and I know when people are faking."

Plamenko Priganica, another mine victim who chaired the dinner meeting, said he hoped Princess Diana could raise funds to help remove the two to three million mines scattered across Bosnia.

"We launched an appeal to the princess and asked her to give this message to the rest of the world on our behalf," Mr. Priganica said.

Tabloid reporters were more interested in uncovering her friendship with Mr. Fayed than in learning about efforts to ban anti-personnel mines.

"Whatever (the) other distractions are, she puts her mind on what she's doing. She is in excellent form," her friend Lord Deedes told reporters.

Princess Diana was not expected to visit Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia due to security concerns following a raid by British special forces to arrest two Serbs wanted by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal.

One of the suspects was shot dead while resisting arrest while the other was apprehended and sent to the Hague for trial.

## Former South Korea leaders may be pardoned early next year

SEOUL (AFP) — Korean President Young-Sam is likely to pardon former President Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo before he finishes his term early next year, a senior government official said Saturday.

"It belongs to the president's prerogatives to pardon convicted," an identified official was quoted as saying by a news agency.

"But it is expected the president will consider the issue of pardoning two former presidents before he finishes his official tenure," he said.

He also cited a Korean proverb, saying: "The one who tied the knot should untie it."

The two former military generals-turned-presidents convicted last year on charges of masterminding a 1979 military coup and the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Kwangju the following year.

The two, former allies of Mr. Kim, were also convicted of corruption.

Mr. Chun was initially sentenced to death and Mr. Roh to 22 and half years in August 1996 by the Seoul district court.

Mr. Chun's death sentence was commuted to life in prison and Mr. Roh to 17 years in December by the appeals court here. Both gave up a challenge to the appeals court ruling.

Human rights activists and residents in Kwangju reacted angrily to the amnesty report, calling it an election year strategy to win support from voters in populous North Kyongsang, the home province of Chun and Roh.

The December presidential election will pit ruling New Korea Party candidate Lee Hoi-Chang against veteran opposition leaders Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Jong-Pil.

"Chun has not admitted being guilty or apologized. He is now even trying to launder his hidden slush money. The president must not pardon a person like him for political gains," said Cho Pio, a Roman Catholic priest who witnessed the bloodshed in Kwangju in 1980 which left more than 200 people dead.

He also called for the release of "prisoners of conscience" and some 1,000 Roman Catholic churches nationwide will pray for them late Saturday.

Human rights activists said some 980 people, most of them students, were behind bars on charges of violating the laws on assemblies or the draconian National Security Law.

Many of them have been charged with supporting the North Korean cause, organizing underground leftist rings, leading violent protests or contacting North Koreans — activities barred under the strict National Security Law.

The South Korean government is opposed to calling them prisoners of conscience.

The report came after a group of Buddhist monks conveyed 2.7 million names gathered through a signature collection campaign to appeal for the release of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh "for the sake of national reconciliation."

Mingahyup, the association of relatives of jailed dissidents, has launched a signature-collection campaign aimed at preventing the release of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh and pressuring the government to free jailed dissidents.

"The people's power led the government to agree to punish Chun and Roh. Should the president pardon them without consent from the people, he would face fury from the people," she said.

## 26 Colombian troops killed in clash

BOGOTA (R) — Marxist guerrillas said Friday they had killed 26 soldiers posing as right-wing paramilitary fighters, and that six of their own men had died in a fierce battle in eastern Colombia.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's oldest and largest rebel force, said they attacked the troops last Saturday in an isolated hamlet about 40 kilometres from the town of Mapiripian, which was the scene of a brutal massacre last month.

Army and Red Cross sources were unable to confirm the claims made in a communiqué, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters. But the police inspector in Mapiripian said some villagers heard gunshots last weekend, and that there were strong rumours that guerrillas and right-wing

paramilitaries had clashed. "The FARC fought with a patrol which carried out the (recent) assassinations in Mapiripian ... 26 soldiers were killed and 17 were injured. Six of our own fighters died," the communiqué said.

In a separate communiqué last week, the FARC accused army counterinsurgency troops of killing at least 30 people in Mapiripian, in Meta province, in July. The Colombian police said a newly formed right-wing paramilitary group was responsible for those murders.

The corpses of just a handful of the victims of the original massacre were found. Red Cross officials said the others were thought to have been thrown into a nearby river.

None of the corpses of those supposedly killed in last weekend's fighting

have been recovered, a spokesman for the chief prosecutor's office said.

"Some of the neighbours heard shooting and there are rumours that the guerrilla and paramilitaries had a battle," Mapiripian Police Inspector Luis Prieto said. "But nobody likes to speak around here ... and nobody has asked us to go out to that place to investigate."

Leftist guerrillas and right-wing paramilitary groups have stepped up their campaign of violence in the last few months. The guerrillas allege that the paramilitary groups are closely linked to the armed forces.

The bodies of at least seven suspected paramilitary fighters were found scattered in several locations around Meta earlier this week though none were found close to Mapiripian.

## U.N. names American third member to Congo inquiry panel

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. chief Kofi Annan Friday named a U.S. human rights expert to a panel that will probe alleged massacres of Rwandan refugees in the former Zaire, a U.N. spokesman said.

President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo was informed of the U.N. decision to name Reed Brody to the committee, which also includes Aisu-Koffi Amega of Togo and Andrew Chigovera of Zimbabwe.

The panel will meet in Geneva next week before traveling to Kinshasa, the spokesman said. But Human Rights Watch expressed "serious concerns" about the participation of Mr. Chigovera, Zimbabwe's attorney general, in the investigation.

"As a civil servant of a government that has allied itself with the government under investigation, Mr. Chigovera cannot meet the high standards of impartiality and independence that this investigation warrants," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch said in a letter to Mr. Annan.

Mr. Kabila Friday accused the United Nations of dragging its feet over sending the mission to Kinshasa, urging the panel to end the "uncertainties and gratuitous condemnations" of a people who have just recovered their freedom, a reference to his rebellion and ouster of Mobutu Sese Seko in former Zaire.

Mr. Kabila initially rejected a U.N. mission headed by Chilean Roberto Garretón, accusing Mr. Garretón of making a false report about the massacres. However, in July he accepted a fresh mission.

Mr. Brody was previously human rights director for the U.N. mission to El Salvador and executive director of the International Human Rights Law Group.

## Congress woos Sonia Gandhi, says India is not doomed to coalitions

CALCUTTA (AFP) — India's Congress (I) Party Saturday urged Sonia Gandhi, the enigmatic Italian-born widow of slain Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, to take over the leadership of the party.

Congress President Sitaram Kesri made the appeal while addressing delegates on the second day of a three-day national convention here, being attended by Sonia Gandhi.

"Though I am the elected president of the party, I have no hesitation in offering you the party leadership," an emotionally-charged Mr. Kesri, 77, said at the end of his hour-long speech.

"Do what you feel like, Madame Gandhi, but don't de-link yourself from the Congress. Be with us." "You have been meditating for six years. Now the time has come for you to act."

A profusely-garlanded Sonia Gandhi, 50, who reluctantly agreed to speak for about five minutes after several delegates pressed her to do so, avoided comment on Mr. Kesri's appeal.

But she said the Congress was moving away from the mass of poor Indians.

"I am happy to be in Calcutta on this historic occasion, and bowing to public

demands I am going to say a few words," Ms. Gandhi said in Hindi, India's main language, before switching over quickly to English.

"We have lost touch with the toiling millions. The ideology of socialism, secularism and democracy is the only ideology for our great country."

"We need to unleash mass movements based on Congress ideology."

It was the first speech at a Congress meeting by Sonia Gandhi, who married into the illustrious Gandhi-Nehru family in 1968 and now lives under tight security in New Delhi.

The mother of two, a member of the 112-year-old Congress, has previously rejected appeals from party leaders to take over its leadership.

Sonia Gandhi's popularity was evident Saturday when delegates, many of them veteran politicians, gave her a standing ovation when she arrived at the venue wearing a colourful Saree, the traditional dress of Indian women.

Many Congress leaders believe Ms. Sonia Gandhi has the charisma to woo back millions of Indians who have moved away from the Congress, greatly weakening the once-omnipresent party.

In his speech, Mr. Kesri, who has vowed to replace India's multi-party government with his own administration, denied that the country was doomed to a series of future coalitions.

Mr. Kesri said parties could still come to power in the world's largest democracy, and ridiculed reports that only coalitions spell the way forward.

"(This) is erroneous, dangerous and factually incorrect," he told some 4,000 delegates at a sports stadium. "It is too simplistic to come to such a conclusion from the results of one or two elections."

He said the "thesis ... was being propounded by parties who can never come to power on their own programmes and strength."

Mr. Kesri had, however, said Friday that he would not immediately topple Mr. Gujral's centre-left coalition, made up of more than a dozen parties and which survives with the crucial parliamentary backing of the Congress.

The Congress ruled India for almost half a century since independence in 1947. It suffered its worst electoral rout in 1996.

## Hong Kong debates fate of Taiwan's 'China' flag

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-Hwa has sparked a debate in Hong Kong on the fate of Taiwan's rival "China" flag, which has flown here with impunity for decades but now faces an uncertain future.

Newspapers Saturday carried a spectrum of views on the flag, which has become highly sensitive since the territory joined China on July 1 after 156 years as a British colony.

China-backed Tung said Thursday he was mulling whether to allow Taiwan's Nationalist "Republic of China" flag to be flown in the territory this year on Oct. 10, Taiwan's national day.

In the past, the day known as the Double Tenth has been marked with flags hoisted prominently in the territory along the Nathan Road shopping street, in the Wanchai waterfront area and in villages across the territory.

The flag is blue with a white sun on a red patch, in stark contrast to Beijing's red flag with five golden stars and Hong Kong's new red flag with a white baobab tree blossom.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province that split when the Nationalists lost power to the Commu-

nists on the mainland at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

The Beijing government hotly opposes any notion of two Chinas and sees its "one country two systems" recovery of Hong Kong as a model for Taiwan's eventual return to the fold.

Taiwan's diplomatic partners have been forced to shut their consulates in Hong Kong since it became part of China.

Pro-Taiwan groups appeared divided about whether they should fly the flag. Oct. 10 marks the Xinhai Revolution, the day in 1911 when the imperial Qing dynasty was toppled and the Republic of China, ruled by Sun Yat Sen's Kuomintang Party, was founded.

"Some people may just think the 1911 revolution was a memorable event and have a tradition to celebrate it," said Dick Tse of the pro-Taiwan 123 alliance, a Hong Kong political party.

"We will continue to do what we have been doing. If we abandon our traditions before they are banned, it would be like fleeing before your enemies have fired," Mr. Tse said. He said his group might write to Mr. Tung urging him not to ban the flag.

Hoisting the Taiwan flag might be a breach of the

new constitution, the Basic Law, said Hong Kong's second most senior government lawyer, Deputy Solicitor General Stephen Wong.

"Since a flag is a symbol of sovereignty, raising it could be interpreted that you are advocating a sovereign state," Mr. Wong said. "In that case it could be a violation of the Basic Law."

Byron Weng, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said it should be permissible to display the flag privately in offices or at home, but not in public places.

"I'm waiting to see how the officials handle this during the double 10th celebration. It will be a test this year," he said.

Jimmy Lee, leader of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Trade Union Council, a pro-Taiwan group organising Oct. 10 celebrations, said the alternative could be to fly flags decorated with the plum blossom, a Chinese national floral emblem.

Taiwan's China Airlines adopted this emblem recently.

"There is a view that we should respect the first Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government and consider the sensitivity of flying the flag," Mr. Lee said.



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Doves flutter over Peace Park in Nagasaki, southwest Japan Saturday, marking the 52nd anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of the city which killed over 115,000 people. In background is the Peace Statue, a bronze statue of a half-naked man with its right hand pointing upward to symbolize the threat of the atomic bomb, and its left hand stretching horizontally for peace (Reuter photo)

## Nagasaki marks atomic-bomb day

NAGASAKI (AFP) — Church bells tolled and sirens wailed as this southern Japan port marked the 52nd anniversary of its atomic-bomb holocaust Saturday with an attack on a recent U.S. plutonium experiment. "We demand an end to all kinds of experiments on nuclear weapons," Nagasaki Mayor Ichiro Ito declared before some 22,000 people gathered in a park for a memorial service in wind and rain. "The government should take a stern position against the 'subcritical experiment,'" said Mr. Ito, whose late father was one of the survivors of the U.S. atomic-bombing which killed some 74,000 people instantly or within months. The 51-year-old mayor was referring to the July 2 underground test in Nevada, in which conventional high explosives were used to blast small targets of plutonium into tiny particles. The data collected from the blast was to be used to predict the behavior of plutonium during full-scale explosions. Washington claims the test did not con-

travene its commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty because there was no chain reaction. "I feel indignation at another nuclear test with another name," said Koichi Wada, 70, as he spoke on behalf of A-bomb survivors in the ceremony at Peace Park, near the epicentre of the plutonium bomb blast. "I will keep on talking about my experience for my children and grandchildren so that we shall never repeat the same mistake," he said after a minute of silence at 11:02 a.m., the time of the explosion. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, in a message read by a cabinet minister at the service, remained non-committal about the U.S. test which has also drawn protests from other countries including China, India and Libya. Mr. Hashimoto instead called on all countries to sign the test ban pact as soon as possible. The appeals Saturday varied little from those made in Hiroshima three days earlier when the former garrison town marked the 52nd an-

niversary of the history's first nuclear attack — an uranium bomb which left an estimated 140,000 dead in a hall of fire, heat and radiation. But, in a twist to the nation's obsession with its militarist past, the mayor's message broke with a seven-year tradition of offering apologies to other Asian nations for wartime aggression. Mr. Ito still called on the nation to reflect "deeply upon the fact of Japan's history of aggression and wrongdoing in the Asia-Pacific region." He explained to reporters earlier that it was the national government that had to make such an apology. But anti-war and other groups have pointed out that Nagasaki's appeal for peace would be less convincing without regret and reflection over Japan's war responsibility. Nagasaki has always played the second fiddle to Hiroshima in A-bomb anniversaries. But it has offered deep prayer befitting the hilly port which was founded by a Jesuit missionary as

the cradle of Japan's Christianity in the 16th century. It was even a second choice as the target of the powerful plutonium bomb named "Fat Man" after Sir Winston Churchill. The B-29 "Boxcar" bomber from the U.S. base on the Pacific island of Tinian could not drop the device over the first choice, the industrial city of Kokura north of Nagasaki, because of thick clouds. The 4.5-tonne bomb was hastily released over Nagasaki, which was also home to naval industries, as the plane was running out of fuel and barely reached U.S.-controlled Okinawa. At Urugami Cathedral, Father Saburo Nishida and a dozen Roman Catholics were crushed to death by falling debris when they were congregating on the fateful morning. A morning mass remembered the tragedy at the rebuilt cathedral with Father Seiichi Mimura telling some 1,000 faithful, "let us keep on talking about the Genbaku (atomic bomb) as we go on."

## Bomb explodes in front of Spanish police barracks

SARAGOSSA (AFP) — Security forces in northern Spain Saturday set up roadblocks around a ski village close to the French border, seeking to find the people responsible for a bomb which exploded overnight in front of a police barracks. No group has yet come forward to claim the attack but officials said the blast bore the hallmarks of an attack by the Basque separatist group ETA. The explosion blew out the windows in nearby buildings

but caused no injuries, the officials added. The blast took place outside the barracks of the Guardia Civil in Sallent De Gallego, in the Spanish Pyrenees at around 3:15 a.m. (0115 GMT) Saturday, they said. Examination of the scene showed the bomb had been made of 10 kilograms of amonal, an explosive frequently used by the Basque separatist organisation ETA, officials said. It was placed in a rucksack and hidden

close to the entrance of the barracks. Most of the explosive failed to go off, they added. Elsewhere in Spain, unidentified attackers threw five petrol bombs at the house of a regional councillor in Azpeitia the northern Basque province of Guipuzcoa, the Basque Interior Ministry said. The facade of the building, which belongs to Roman Sudupe, a councillor for the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, was

slightly blackened in the overnight attack. Basque regional police also said that groups of young radical Basque separatists threw petrol bombs at banks in Lasarte and Usurbil during the night, causing small amounts of damage. The region has been tense since the killing of an ETA hostage last month and a series of anti-ETA demonstrations across Spain. ETA is fighting for independence for the Basque region of northern Spain.

## Mass protests defy plant closures in Romania

PIOESTI (R) — Thousands of Romanians denouncing the government and the International Monetary Fund poured into streets and blocked rail lines Friday to protest against plans to close loss-making factories in a new phase of market reform. The mainly peaceful protests took place across the country a day after Prime Minister Victor Ciiorbea announced a list of 17 loss-making plants to be closed down quickly at the urging of the IMF. About 30,000 jobs are at stake. Up to 5,000 shouting protesters faced riot police deployed outside the town hall in the oil centre of Ploiesti, 60 kilometres north of Bucharest, where two refineries are slated for closure. They demanded an explanation from Mr. Ciiorbea. Police said two gendarmes suffered minor injuries late in the afternoon when protesters smashed windows and tried to break into the building. No arrests were reported. "Traitors, traitors" "you sold us to the IMF" protest-

ers shouted, punching the air with their fists outside the grim concrete building erected during the 25-year rule of communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu. "Come and talk to us" one poster held aloft portrayed Mr. Ciiorbea and President Emil Constantinescu as puppets on strings being pulled by the IMF. Workers said they found refinery gates closed Friday, and were given no explanations. "Oilmen, unite" they shouted. "What the Americans couldn't do with wartime bombs, this government is doing now," said one man, referring to allied bombing raids on the Ploiesti oil fields when Romania was allied with Nazi Germany. "They are destroying our oil industry."

Two junior ministers rushed to Ploiesti to discuss the closure of the Petrol and Vega refineries with local officials, who urged the government to reconsider its plans. The oil industry, with huge excess capacity from the communist era, has been singled out as one of the country's most inefficient sectors. Other plants on the hit list are in the chemical and food processing industries. Workers at a third doomed refinery at Darmanesti, in eastern Romania, were held hostage by government officials in company offices. Television showed 6,000 workers blocking traffic in the Danube river port of Braila with trucks, cranes and excavators. In Cluj, in the central Transylvania region, 1,200 workers said they would remain in their metal plant until they received more information about its inclusion on the list. Leaders of the Prahova county council in Ploiesti urged the government to reconsider local plant closures, saying the announcement came days after damage caused by flooding. Fifteen kilometres east of Ploiesti, in the wine-producing town of Valea Caluga-reasca, dozens of employees of a chemical plant also due to be closed sat on rail lines and blocked a Moscow-bound

express train for most of the day. The train with some 300 Russians and Ukrainians returning from seaside holidays in Bulgaria, was rerouted after riot police removed the protesters. Mr. Ciiorbea, speaking Thursday after a month-long IMF assessment of reforms, said water, power and other services would be cut to the plants due to be closed. But a spokesman for the state power utility said no such order had been received, at least for the oil refineries. The government launched reforms after defeating leftists in last year's elections. It won IMF praise for curbing inflation, which fell to a record month-on-month low of 0.7 per cent in July. The Leu currency is largely stable, foreign reserves are on the rise and the government revised the budget to keep the deficit within IMF limits. But Mr. Ciiorbea admitted that closure of loss-making industry had been delayed for too long.

## U.S. envoy arrives in Cambodia, as king attacks new 1st premier

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A U.S. special envoy arrived here Saturday for talks on the Cambodian crisis, which appeared to deepen as King Norodom Sihanouk slammed the country's new premier as a "puppet" of strongman Hun Sen. The envoy, Desaix Anderson, arrived in Phnom Penh saying Washington would do business with Cambodia's new First Premier Ung Huot, despite uproar over his "undemocratic" appointment last week. "I think it's clear that we will continue to deal with the Cambodian government despite our reaction to his election a couple of days ago," he told reporters, adding he had not brought any action plan with him. The United States has said the appointment of Mr. Ung Huot was not democratic as first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh was replaced and stripped of his legal immunity without a debate and in a climate of "fear and intimidation."

But it was unclear whether Mr. Anderson would meet the disputed premier, even though Second Prime Minister Hun Sen cancelled his appointment with Mr. Anderson after his mother fell seriously ill. U.S. embassy officials at first said the envoy "had no plans" to meet the new leader who is strongly backed by Mr. Hun Sen. But later Saturday, after an apparent change of plan, they said that such a meeting was possible. Cambodian officials meanwhile said they had "thought it likely" that the envoy would meet Mr. Ung Huot following the cancellation of the Hun Sen meeting. But the 24-hour trip of the envoy, who is due to meet Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) officials in Singapore Monday to report on his visit, was overshadowed by a savage attack on Mr. Ung Huot by Cambodia's king. "I must recognise that we have three first prime ministers, one in forced exile, one 'puppet' and one actual master of Cambodia," King Sihanouk said in a statement faxed to AFP from his Beijing residence. "This is the actual situation, which I cannot ignore," he wrote three days after Parliament voted to confirm Mr. Ung Huot as first premier to replace the King's Son Prince Ranariddh, who was ousted by Mr. Hun Sen last month. Prince Ranariddh left Cambodia in early July before Mr. Hun Sen's troops

seized control of the country after pitched street battles here against royalist soldiers which the prince and his supporters branded a "coup." He remains in exile, arriving in the Thai capital Bangkok Saturday to meet his supporters ahead of a series of key meetings on the Cambodian crisis next week. "I still consider his royal highness Prince Ranariddh as being the legal first prime minister of Cambodia," King Sihanouk said. But he said, in another letter to an opposition politician received in Bangkok, that as a constitutional monarch he had no power to intervene in the crisis although he disagreed "totally" with the appointment. He wrote: "The fate of our nation is terribly sad. As for me I have no ability to do anything. The power is totally in their hands. Their views are totally different from mine. I have no possibility to make them follow my way." But despite his opposition to Mr. Ung Huot's elevation, he said he would receive Mr. Hun Sen, Mr. Ung Huot and acting head of state Chea Sim — who signed the appointment decree on the king's behalf — in Beijing Tuesday. The three are travelling to

the Chinese capital in the hope of garnering legitimacy for the moves which led to Mr. Ung Huot's taking over from the prince, analysts said. Mr. Hun Sen's officials meanwhile brushed aside the king's tough remarks, saying he changed his mind often and that the comments would not affect the troika's trip to Beijing. "This is a problem, but it is just one of the attitudes of the king," a senior official in the Ministry of Information here told AFP. "He changes his mind a lot," he added. The king complained in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, received in Bangkok Saturday, that Phnom Penh would not allow him to play his constitutional role of supreme arbiter and guarantor of national institutions. Two U.S. political think-tanks launched their own scathing attack here on Mr. Ung Huot's appointment. The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the International Republican Institute, which have been working to build democracy here for the past five years, said it was an "assault on democracy carried out under a cloud of fear and intimidation."

## China's military chief meets Cohen, Albright

WASHINGTON (R) — China's military chief met with U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen Friday in a visit to improve relations frozen after Chinese soldiers crushed demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. General Fu Quanyou, chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army, was greeted in a full honours ceremony at the Pentagon, complete with 19-gun salute, by his American counterpart, General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Fu also met later with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, a U.S. official said. In discussions at the Pentagon, Gen. Fu and U.S. officials agreed that four-party talks on Korea should continue, according to a Defence Department official. The talks in New York this week between U.S., Chinese, North Korean and South Korean diplomats broke off Thursday. Gen. Shalikashvili expressed pleasure that Gen. Fu had been able to keep an earlier promise to help U.S. military ships keep their established schedule of port calls to Hong Kong following the handover to China last month, the defence official said. The question of Taiwan, often a bone of contention in U.S.-China relations, did not come up in Pentagon discussions, according to the defence official. This was a reciprocal visit for Gen. Fu, who hosted Gen. Shalikashvili in Beijing in May. At those earlier meetings, Gen. Shalikashvili said he favoured better military ties with China, but voiced concern about regional stability, and applauded moves toward "rational dialogue" over the question of Taiwan. Noting the Clinton administration's desire for a politically stable and economically open China with respect for human rights and the rule of law, Gen. Shalikashvili said in May that military-to-military contacts would foster better understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

## 15 killed, 9 hurt as Pakistan sectarian violence spreads

LAHORE (AFP) — Fifteen people were killed and nine seriously wounded Saturday as sectarian violence spread in Pakistan five days before the country marks its 50th anniversary of independence. Police said all victims in the two attacks, at separate places in the country's largest province of Punjab, were Shiite Muslims. In a pre-dawn raid, two men on a motorcycle sprayed six people with bullets, killing them as they slept in the open outside their home in the village of Mondka, near the city of Multan in southern Punjab, police said. A seventh person was injured and taken to hospital. Hours later, six men riding motorcycles opened fire at a market in the city of Sheikhupura near Lahore, capital of Punjab, killing seven immediately and seriously wounding 11, with all of the casualties believed to be Shiites. Two of the injured later died in hospital. The gunmen fired bursts from automatic weapons, targeting shops owned mostly by Shiites, and fled the scene, a police official said. "It was apparently a sectarian attack," a senior police officer said. Police immediately sealed all exits from Sheikhupura, an industrial city of two million Sunni and Shiite Muslims, in a bid to catch the attackers. The two raids follow 13 other killings in two bomb and gun attacks on Sunni mosques in Multan and Lahore Thursday. Those incidents came after eight Shiites died in an attack in the town of Shorekot Monday. The spiral of revenge killings, blamed on militants from the majority Sunni and minority Shiite communities, has claimed more than 150 lives over the past seven months, overshadowing Pakistan's preparations for its 50th anniversary of independence on August 14. The violence has increased pressure on the nearly six-month-old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whose brother-in-law, Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif is chief minister in Punjab, home to around 60 per cent of Pakistan's 135 million people. Pakistani Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah has voiced concern over the government's inability to stop the killings, echoing strong criticism by the opposition, the press and the public. The massive mandate received by Mr. Sharif's party in the February polls put a "great responsibility" on the government's shoulders, the news daily quoted the chief justice as saying. If the government failed to deliver, it would narrow the scope of democracy in the country, Justice Shah told a seminar in Lahore Friday. He said police investigations were flawed and witnesses were unwilling to testify for "fear of consequences."

The government should protect them (witnesses) so they could stand in the witness box fearlessly," Justice Shah said. President Farooq Leghari was quoted by newspapers as saying a "foreign hand" — which he did not identify — was behind the sectarian violence in Punjab, stressing the need to enhance the efficiency of intelligence agencies. "A foreign hand is behind terrorism. Inimical forces are taking advantage of the acts of terrorism," Mr. Leghari said. Reports said 20 judges have been appointed to head special courts in Punjab to try serious crimes. A senior police official told a superior court in Lahore Friday that several judges, politicians, civil servants and journalists were on a "hit list" of terrorists in Punjab. People packing a courtroom in Lahore Saturday upset a scheduled hearing on violence in the country by the chief justice, witnesses said. The audience, including opposition party workers, stood up and shouted slogans after a court official announced Justice Shah would hear views of Sunnis and Shiites on separate dates. Some condemned the announcement, saying it would fan sectarian sentiment. "We are Pakistanis. No one should try to divide us on sectarian lines," said politician, Rana Shaukat. A group of activists from former premier, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party also staged a protest.

## North Korean hunger to worsen as drought takes toll

BEIJING (R) — Searing drought in much of North Korea has wiped out nearly three-fourths of the maize crop and will further plunge the country into hunger and malnutrition, a United Nations aid worker said Saturday. An initial survey by international food agencies of crops in North Korea had found stunted plants struggling to survive the blistering summer in the hermit nation, said Hilary Mackenzie, spokeswoman for the World Food Programme in Pyongyang. "Seventy per cent of the maize crop has been lost, which has resulted in a loss of 1.5 million tonnes of cereals," Ms. Mackenzie said in an interview in Bei-

jing after two months based in the North Korean capital. "The most stark effect that I saw was in the north-east, where the corn was a matter of inches high because of the drought," Ms. Mackenzie said. "It just couldn't grow." Pyongyang, armed with its "juche" philosophy of defiant self-reliance, had desperately mobilised brigades of people to carry water to the fields in a vain attempt to revive the withered crops, she said. "The best thing now that they can do with the maize is chop it down and either use it as animal feedstuff with the leaves or plough it back into the land," she said. The failed crops would

only worsen the already severe food shortages in North Korea, which has been hit with its worst heat-wave in 61 years after floods ravaged the country in 1995 and 1996. Ms. Mackenzie said. North Korea was already short about one million tonnes of grain for the year, she said. Pyongyang had pinned hopes of immediate hunger relief on the maize harvest but the drought's impact on that and other crops meant chronic food shortages would last until at least November 1998, she said. "We are concerned about the effect on paddy fields, which could be of alarming proportions," she said.







## Study provides 'valuable insight into some Arab attitudes towards Israel'

Partner or Pariah? Attitudes toward Israel in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan

By Hilal Khashan  
Policy Paper Number Forty-One  
The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Washington, D.C., 1996, 52 pp.  
ISBN 0-944029-63-9

THIS MONOGRAPH in the Washington Institute's respected series of publications, though published last year, makes very timely reading these days. It should be carefully read and absorbed by officials — in Israel, the Arab World, the United States, Europe and elsewhere — who are engaged in policy-making related to Arab-Israeli peace-making and conflict-resolution. Despite a very few ideological or technical shortcomings, this study provides valuable and pivotal insight into some Arab attitudes towards Israel and will prove extremely useful to those who should know but may not have easy access to the thoughts and attitudes of ordinary Arabs about Israel and peace-making.

The author is an associate professor of political science at the American University of Beirut, and has much experience in polling of Arab attitudes to peace with Israel. In this paper he analyses available survey data from polls conducted among selected segments of the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian and expatriate Palestinian populations in the period 1993-1995, i.e., around the time of the Oslo and Jordan-Israel peace accords, when optimism about peace-making was at its highest in the region.

The polls' general trends, he reports, reveal the following seemingly contradictory sentiments:

a. The overall percentage of Levantine Arabs who support peace talks increased after 1993.

b. Most Arabs perceive the peace talks and agreements "as a fait accompli that reflects the balance of power. Thus they accept it under duress rather than embracing the cause of peace."

c. Opinions vary widely, reflecting different religious and national affiliations and degrees of religiosity, thus in turn mirroring the wide variety of views in the Arab World.

Polls in 1993 and 1994 in Lebanon showed that the Shiite population, in an all-Muslim sample, was the most supportive of peace with Israel and that Shiite support for peace had increased over time — probably reflecting the fact that Shiite populations suffered the most in south Lebanon and thus supported peace because they had the most to gain from it. In 1994, for example, 56 per cent of Shiite students and 60 per cent of professionals supported peace talks with Israel, compared to 44 per cent and 48 per cent of Sunnis; among Lebanese Maronites the figures were 78 per cent and 82 per cent, among Syrians in Damascus 45 per cent, among Jordanians in Amman 66 per cent, among Palestinians in Beirut 17 per cent, and among Palestinians in Amman 63 per cent.

The data shows "a growing connection between the degree of Islamic fervour and negative attitudes towards Israel," particularly among those who declared themselves to be very religious. This is no surprise, given the tendency of people who are disappointed by the policies of their states to seek comfort and hope in the area of religion.

The author notes that fundamentalists' most frequent response to a question about their satisfaction with the peace process was that "Israel has no right to exist" (44 per cent). (It is also interesting, I would suggest, that this attitude is often mirrored among many religious and nationalist Jews and Israelis, who deny the right of the Palestinians to have their own state in Palestine.)

### BOOK REVIEW

The author makes the important point that among "moderately religious" respondents, support for peace talks increased substantially in the period 1993-94. Large majorities of "highly religious" respondents (72-83 per cent) opposed peace, compared to 38 per cent of "moderately religious and irreligious Muslims" and 15 per cent of Maronite Christians. He draws the correct and important conclusion that "it is apparently evolving political developments — rather than unchanging religious convictions — that largely determine their attitudes..." This is a very significant finding that should be explored more deeply by Arab, Israeli and Western scholars; it confirms that changing political acts, rather than fixed religious sentiment, is the most important determinant of attitudes to "the other", and suggests that religious perceptions may end up playing a small role in the drive to achieve a fair and lasting peace.

Another important point in this study is that 65 per cent of "fundamentalists" reported previous political affiliations, including, in order of importance, Arab nationalism, leftist Palestinian groups, Fateh, and

Communist Party. This suggests to me that many who espouse Islamism today do so from a strong political activism perspective as much as from a commitment to religious morality and, also, that the two mix very easily and naturally. Findings like this, if they are repeatedly validated by other research, should pretty much discredit the nonsense espoused by many Israeli and American scholars that deep religious and emotional attitudes among Arabs prevent movement towards compromise and peace with Israel.

Support for peace talks, the author points out, is accompanied by scepticism about the durability of existing accords: in 1993 and 1994, 88 per cent and 65 per cent respectively of Arab respondents did not think the peace accords with Israel would endure. There is also a strong underlying feeling among the Arabs polled that we are making peace because we have no other option, or that peace basically gives us time to reorganise and confront Israel more effectively in the future.

The polls show that "Arab suspicions about Israelis (and Jews in general) are deeply rooted." Respondents expressed strong concerns about Israeli economic dominance of the Arabs, the creation of a Greater Israel, Israeli control of Arab water resources and the creation of puppet Arab regimes in neighbouring states.

The author's analysis of the available polls also supports the view that the Arab reluctance to normalise with Israel on a people-to-people basis has remained strong and constant — even

among Arabs who support peace. There is very little Arab willingness to interact with Israelis, vacation in Israel, learn about Israel or attend professional courses there, the polls show. The author believes that most Arabs have made "a deliberate choice" to shun any form of interaction with Israelis — a fact that has been verified in recent years by the actions of most Jordanians, Palestinians and Egyptians, for example.

Further analysis of polls shows that the prospects for economic interaction among Arabs and Israelis remains low, and that most people are not willing to give the peace accords time to prove themselves.

The author concludes that these trends may be due to the fact that Arab leaders and governments have not done very much to socialise and prepare their people for peace, perhaps because some leaders themselves feel forced to make peace, do not see peace as a long-term strategic choice, and are not fully convinced of Israeli good intentions in the long run. The vast majority of Arabs oppose normalisation of relations with Israel and "abhor the thought of personal interaction with Israelis."

At the popular level, he concludes: "To many (Arabs), the Arab-Israeli conflict is not ending as much as being transformed. They view peace as surrender, continue to see Israel as illegitimate, believe the conflict has yet to run its course, and consider peace with Israel as a truce rather than a genuine end to hostilities."

An interesting conclusion relates to the role of the Islamists in Arab states, who, the author says, might reverse the peace process should they come to power. He feels that the strength of

the Islamists and of their anti-peace position should prompt the realization among Arab ruling elites that their (the elites') survival depends on tolerating greater pluralism. He notes: "Arab governments are fragile because they lack popular legitimacy. Thus peace at the official level — though significant — is not sufficient."

He ends, though, with some debatable statements such as: "Popular Arab views on peace and normalisation with Israel result more from stereotyping and emotion than realism and critical evaluation." This is one of several other statements of fact in the study that are either unproved or, in my opinion, wrong. Another example is the statement that fundamentalism could raise a barrier to Arab-Israeli peace and should be addressed because "highly religious Muslims constitute a large and probably growing segment of certain Arab societies."

This latter viewpoint is not proved, if I understand the author to be saying that political Islamism is growing in its popular appeal. There is recent poll evidence to the contrary from Palestine, for example, where discontent with the peace process is not translating into higher support for Hamas and other Islamists. The same is probably true in Jordan and Yemen, where the inclusion of the Islamists in the political process has led to their slow weakening and dropping credibility. In a strong study based on empirical evidence, the author and publisher should be more careful about slipping in such sweeping and subjective generalisations.

One of the weaknesses of this study is the lack of analysis of the behaviour of

the Israeli state as a factor in the formation of the deeply sceptical Arab attitudes towards peace. Several times the author makes statements that aim to explain Arab views on the basis of Arab actions only, such as, "in an atmosphere of constant anti-Israeli socialisation, the Arab public tends to assess Israeli intentions negatively and finds it very difficult to form positive impressions of Israel's intentions."

**"We need to know more accurately why people have such strong negative views of the other side if we ever hope to resolve the conflict in a fair and lasting manner."**

This kind of statement is far too broad, incomplete and unsubstantiated for an otherwise impressive and serious study such as this. The Arab public assesses Israeli intentions negatively largely because of our experience with Israeli policies and actions in the past half a century, not because of any socialising we are subjected to.

The strong and widespread Arab scepticism about peace expressed in the polls analysed in this study has been verified and probably expanded in the two years since the period covered by the study. This only adds to the accuracy, validity and pertinence of this booklet, and should

prompt further, comprehensive analysis of this phenomenon — in both Israeli and Arab societies. We need to know more accurately why people have such strong negative views of the other side if we ever hope to resolve the conflict in a fair and lasting manner.

I recommend this study highly to anyone interested in learning more about the underlying political, religious and emotional attitudes of Arabs towards peace-making with Israel; the few shortcomings of the study (whether ideological or logistical) are far outweighed by its depth and empirical strength. It provides great insight into and background for why the peace process has come to a standstill today; what is required to make it succeed in the end; it also helps us understand why Jordanians and Israelis, though their governments have signed peace accords with Israel, remain very critical of Israeli behaviour and why Jordanians are predominantly against normalisation of relations with Israelis.

It is noteworthy that this very useful and timely report is the work of an Arab scholar but is published by an American institute that is known for its rather pro-Israeli sympathies. This suggests the valuable scope for joint research among Arabs, Israelis, Americans and others around the world who wish to overcome the legacy of mistrust and who seek means of promoting a fair resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on reality rather than romance. The author and the Washington Institute are to be commended for a fine piece of work, and one hopes that this sort of cross-cultural research effort will continue and expand in the future.

## Feasting weighs on Tongan king's diet

By Mary Fonua  
Reuter

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** — Weight watchers could do no better than to take the advice of Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, who recently celebrated his 79th birthday.

If you want to lose a lot of weight, "eat less, and eat less fat," the beefy monarch said.

That is challenging in this South Pacific kingdom of 100,000 where feasting is an affirmation of culture and a way of life.

The king has lost over 70 kg since he weighed in at his heaviest — a massive 201 kg — in 1976, although this year he has put a bit on and is over 130 kg.

Asked if there was any food the king liked but tried to avoid, he said, "Peking duck".

"But I do allow myself to have this once every six months," the king told reporters as he underwent one of his three weekly workouts in a gym he built and shares with his people.

### Obesity affecting health

Diet and food became an issue after a nutrition survey a decade ago estimated more than 62 per cent of women in the age group 30-49 were obese, along with 10 per cent of all adult men.

Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and a life expectancy of 69 years are the price of over-eating.

The king is trying to turn the tide of health problems, and Tongans of all ages are following his example.

Fitness programmes are in full swing and body

builders bulged from the floats in the king's birthday parade, pressing through the crowds on the streets of capital Nuku'alofa on the warm sunny day.

"Made on earth", declared the sash worn by a robust beauty queen, riding a float decorated with aromatic tropical flowers, while an aerobics class followed her with drummers beating out age old dance rhythms on skin drums.

### King top dieter

Fittingly, the king is the kingdom's top dieter, achiever, says Lois Englberger, the Tonga government's nutrition adviser.

"The nearest we have recorded was a weight loss of 55 kg over a period of three years by a winner in our weight loss competition, although the king's weight loss was a great achievement over a much longer period," she said.

The king's birthday marked the start of Tonga's third national healthy weight loss competition, which will end on World Food Day on Oct. 16, when the king will present prizes.

Tonga's royal family literally stand out. They are larger and taller than most of their countrymen, although a younger generation of healthy Tongans epitomised by all black rugby union hero Jonah Lomu, is catching them up.

The royals' size reflects physical prowess as a selection criterion in centuries of arranged marriages, Polynesians' natural predisposition to store fat and the royals' never-ending obligation to preside over feasts.

After viewing a mili-

tary parade honouring his birthday, the king retired to attend a small family feast held in the grounds of his small seafaring Victorian-style palace, also showing signs of age where the red and white paint is peeling.

Bigger feasts will call for the big traditional dances, which bring 1,000 traditional dancers at a time on to the park beside the royal palace.

Feasts and celebration survive as a way of life because Tongans enjoy presenting them.

It is a display of the wealth of food that their friendly climate and fertile soil provides and a reaffirmation of numerous family lines and social responsibilities.

A big one (and that means the king is present) for an important occasion, may consist of thousands of cooked food baskets, 500 cooked pigs and other culinary concoctions.

Hundreds of guests attend the feasts and afterwards the food is distributed and redistributed, until everyone within reach has had a taste of suckling pig and yam.

The king does decline the fatty pork, saying he prefers seafood, such as lobster, fish and shell fish.

Occasionally, he eats lamb and chicken.

The enthusiasm of the dancers, new compositions of poetry and song, and the weight of national responsibilities, help keep this dedicated dieter's mind off temptations spread before him.

Tonga is the oldest and last Polynesian monarchy and the only Pacific island nation never to submit to foreign rule.

While Tonga's economy is fragile, dependent

on remittances and aid, its books are in the black and it is healthy compared to many Pacific island economies.

In August, the king will publish a booklet outlining "His Majesty's Health Programme" in English and Tongan.

It is a guide for the Tongan people with notes on smoking, AIDS, diet and health food and gives practical and religious encouragement on their "duty" to stay healthy.

Tongans will no doubt continue to sing and dance their way into the 21st century and are already planning the grandest celebration of all — Tonga's entry into the year 2000 when it lays claim to being the first nation on earth to see the dawn.

Now that should be a memorable feast.

**King of Tonga, Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, is pictured at his 79th birthday celebrations in Nuku'alofa. The King of this South Pacific Kingdom of over 100,000 people, where feasting is an affirmation and a way of life, has lost over 70 kg since he weighed in at his heaviest — a massive 201 kg — in 1976. (Reuter photo)**



**Jordan, PNA to form joint office to fight flow of goods**

AMMAN AND the Palestinian Authority agreed to set up a joint office to combat the flow of goods between the two sides located in Ramallah, will be headed by Fatah's Ali Khatib, who is in charge of the flow of goods. The office will also be responsible for the development and Trade Center in Amman. The PNA will also be responsible for the flow of goods.

According to Secretary General M. Khatib, the office will endow the two sides and facilitate the flow of goods. More importantly, the joint office will also be responsible for the development and Trade Center in Amman. The PNA will also be responsible for the flow of goods.

**Beware of counterfeit currencies**

THE CENTRAL Bank of Jordan has issued a warning to the public about the flow of counterfeit Jordanian banknotes. The bank has issued a warning to the public about the flow of counterfeit Jordanian banknotes. The bank has issued a warning to the public about the flow of counterfeit Jordanian banknotes.

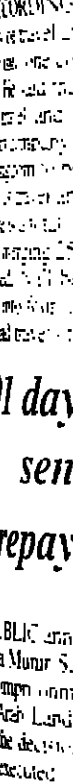
**Travel and tourism merge into one company**

ACCORDING TO Lami to Hadad, the travel and tourism agencies, 25 companies are merging into one company which will be called the Jordanian Travel and Tourism Company. The company will be responsible for the flow of goods and the development and Trade Center in Amman. The PNA will also be responsible for the flow of goods.

**91 days imprisonment sentence for repaying JD22**

A PUBLIC announcement published in the Amman Star, Amman Lami has been sentenced to 91 days imprisonment for repaying JD22. The debtor of the decision is otherwise the banknotes.

**BETTER HALF.**



When I gave up smoking and cigarettes. When I gave up sugar, I sw

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**KAISER**

**AUBET**

Now answer here : AN



**THIS**

**Now answer here : AN**



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

## Jordan, PNA to set up joint office to facilitate flow of goods

JORDAN AND the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have agreed to set up a joint field office to coordinate trade issues between the two sides. The office, which will be situated in Ramallah, will basically aim at removing barriers hindering the flow of goods across the bridges. Abdul Fattah Al Kayed, who works for the Jordan Export Development and Trade Centres Corporation, was appointed as the Kingdom's representative in the office and it is expected that the PNA will appoint a representative for their side soon.

According to Secretary General Mohammed Halaqah, the office will endeavour to boost the volume of trade between the two sides and facilitate the import-export process. "More importantly, the joint office will accept any complaint from traders, exporters and businessmen from both sides and will analyse it before passing the complaint to the Jordanian and Palestinian decision-makers," Dr. Halaqah said noting that an immediate solution will be found upon any complaint reaching the decision-makers (Al Dustour).

## Beware of counterfeit currency

THE CENTRAL Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has warned commercial banks, financial institutions and money exchangers of a rash of counterfeit Jordanian currency on the streets. The forgers cut the bank notes into two or three pieces and attach the forged pieces to the original to make one note. The Central Bank requested that anyone found in possession of such forged notes be referred to the Public Security Directorate and that the notes be sent to the CBJ (Al Aswaj).

## 25 travel and tour offices merge into one large company

ACCORDING TO Lamie Haddadin, president of the society of travel and tour agents, 25 offices have agreed to merge into one company which will be a limited liability entity. He said that practical steps have started to merge these travel and tour offices and noted that upon this tourism company taking final shape, it will be the first in the Kingdom to be the outcome of a group of offices and agents of travel and tourism.

There is a total of 200 travel and tour offices in Amman and by merging 25 of them in one company, Mr. Haddadin indicated, "will be a first step towards unifying the 200 offices into four large tourism companies to represent all tours and travel offices in Amman" (Al Dustour).

## 91 days imprisonment sentence for not repaying JD224,522

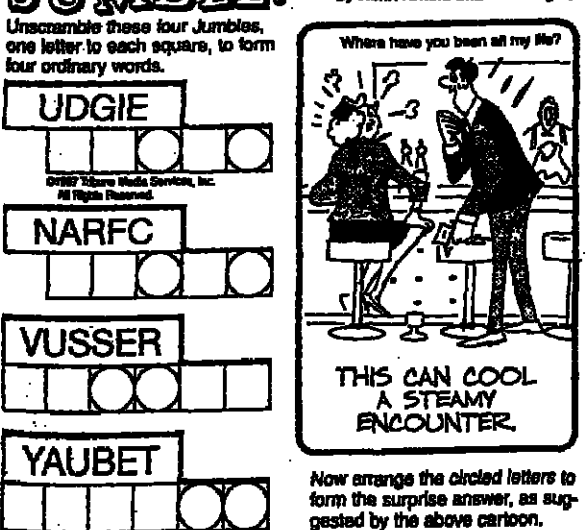
A PUBLIC announcement published in an Arabic daily said that Munir Sati Ahmad Lami has been sentenced to 91-day imprisonment for not repaying a JD224,522 debt to the Arab Land Bank. The debtor has seven days to appeal the decision or otherwise the imprisonment order will be executed.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"When I gave up smoking, I switched to candy cigarettes. When my doctor told me to give up sugar, I switched back."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Print answer here: AM (Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumble: FISHY HENNA BEDBUG MARTIN  
Answer: What the home run king was to his fans - A BIG HIT

## Microsoft, Apple partnership stuns business world

BOSTON (AFP) — Two of the biggest names in the U.S. computing industry, Microsoft and Apple, have stunned the business world with their announcement of a partnership pact.

News that software giant Microsoft, the brainchild of billionaire Bill Gates, would invest \$150 million in Apple Computer prompted industry speculation on the reaction of competition-conscious U.S. anti-trust authorities.

Asked about the proposed deal at a news conference, President Bill Clinton was cautious.

He said the companies would be treated "in the same way we would anyone else... I have to wait to hear from them (the Justice Department) about whether there are any antitrust implications."

But he noted that in recent years Microsoft had been involved "in various legal issues relating to its organization and operations."

Apple partners and Macintosh computer faithful at the Macworld Expo here generally welcomed the news, even as some speculated the investment was just a prelude to Microsoft's outright purchase of its smaller competitor.

"It's an infusion of fresh money and hope," said Donald Clark, a publishing house graphic designer.

"It's the first in a row of very positive developments," said Karne Tallackson, director of marketing at software firm ACI U.S., an Apple partner.

But Norman McAllister, a

Mac-using artist, saw more sinister designs: "Bill Gates wants to take over the world, and eventually, Microsoft will take over Apple."

Overall, the response was more like that of Phuc Le Tuan, head of the animation software company Paccow, who said the deal "means that Apple will still be around in five years," the lifespan of the agreement.

Anti-trust experts in Washington, however, were following the arrangement closely.

A Justice Department spokeswoman said that either the department or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) were "likely to take a look" at the deal, a broad patent cross-licensing agreement to enable the two firms to cooperate closely on new technol-

ogies for Apple's Mac Platform.

The proposed arrangement was designed to breathe new life into Apple, once a dominant player in the U.S. computer industry but which has seen its market share dwindle to around five per cent.

The California-based company has lost \$1.64 billion in the past 18 months while undergoing a series of wrenching top-level personnel changes.

Microsoft by contrast has gone from strength to strength and has consequently attracted scrutiny from U.S. regulatory agencies.

A.G. Edwards Technology Industry analyst Jim Johnson said Microsoft's overture to Apple was understandable, as it was in its own interest to maintain competition in the

software market.

"It's in Microsoft's interests, in terms of anti-trust matters, to keep Apple from failing. And given Apple has only about a five to seven per cent share of the total software systems market, it clearly isn't going to concern Microsoft," Mr. Johnson said.

Under the agreement — which was completed just minutes before the announcement — Microsoft will develop and ship future versions of its Microsoft office productivity suite, Internet explorer and other Microsoft tools for the Mac Platform.

Apple will bundle the Microsoft Internet explorer browser with the Mac OS, making it the default browser in future operating system software releases.

Apple and Microsoft also plan to collaborate on technology to ensure compatibility between their respective virtual machines for Java and other programming languages.

"We don't anticipate any regulatory challenges or hurdles," Microsoft chief financial officer Greg Maffei told a conference call for analysts and reporters.

He said the structure of the proposed relationship, involving the purchase of stock to be held for a minimum of three years in a non-voting capacity, meant that Microsoft would not likely file details of the agreement with federal authorities.

He dismissed suggestions that by investing in Apple Microsoft was seeking to deflect Justice Department or FTC attention.

## APICORP issues \$225m in Eurobonds

RIYADH (AFP) — The finance group Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP) announced Monday it has issued \$225 million worth of Eurobonds in London.

It was the first borrowing in the Euromarkets for the Saudi-based APICORP, which was set up in 1975 by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

APICORP said an

international consortium arranged the loan, grouping Arab Banking Corporation based in Bahrain, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, JP Morgan Securities and Union Bank of Switzerland.

The company said it will "use this loan to meet the growing demand for financing of gas, oil and petrochemical projects in Arab countries and elsewhere."

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 09/08/1997									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
298,000	218,500	ARAB BANK	11.5	1.37	4	400	218,500	298.00	298.00
2,340	1,320	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.5	0.00	29	29,000	59987	2,340	2,340
3,400	2,700	RANK OF JORDAN	6.4	0.00	5	35,500	109038	3,400	3,400
1,210	880	MID. EAST INT. BK.	61.7	0.00	5	200	188	94	94
2,400	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.6	0.00	6	1600	4150	2,400	2,400
5,200	4,500	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.01	6	1224	5428	4,82	4,84
4,180	2,440	JOR. FARMAT BANK	10.7	0.00	3	659	1983	3,01	3,01
1,050	780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	0.86	5	5150	4069	79	79
3,870	1,450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.1	0.00	1	200	750	3,87	3,87
4,050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.9	3.07	11	10658	41629	3,91	3,91
1,180	1,110	UTILEM DEV. INV. BK.	9.0	0.00	3	5150	8652	1,28	1,28
3,400	3,000	JOR. INV. FTR. BANK	21.2	0.00	7	641	2777	3,32	3,30
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 216.42	%CHG: +0.01	75	90981	353431		
2,950	2,700	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.0	1.36	3	1937	5434	2,95	2,95
2,860	1,990	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	9.0	0.00	1	200	442	2,92	2,92
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.47	%CHG: -0.31	4	2137	5866		
1,820	1,500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	13	4737	7867	1,67	1,66
1,540	1,320	WILDI. ELECTRICITY	8.5	0.00	4	550	778	1,46	1,42
2,500	6,000	WILDI. OWNERS FED.	7.2	5.30	1	400	2640	4,60	6,60
3,050	2,150	SHIPPING LINES	16.9	4.48	3	2050	5945	3,05	2,90
1,550	1,420	JOR. PORTFOLIO	16.2	0.00	11	8450	1895	1,40	1,39
1,890	1,150	MID. EAST HOTELS	19.2	0.00	22	10100	12575	1,20	1,26
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.8	0.00	5	2500	7410	2,93	2,98
1,220	930	ZAPKA EDUCATION	9.0	0.00	1	500	490	97	98
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 109.42	%CHG: -0.23	60	26487	45589		
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.6	2.78	9	1937	7650	4,00	3,95
4,140	2,750	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	8	50082	197823	3,95	3,96
10,250	9,040	JOR. FTR. INF. SERV.	9.6	0.00	12	13150	12515	9,93	9,95
3,260	1,650	INDUSTRIAL COM. GR.	9.0	0.00	7	790	1254	1,72	1,72
4,180	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.2	4.94	9	948	3817	4,06	4,05
1,800	1,310	JOR. PIPEL. MANF.	16.2	6.11	3	250	329	3,31	2,31
5,650	4,300	DAR ALDINIA DV. INV.	13.0	4.72	8	1593	8438	5,40	5,30
3,850	2,400	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.37	5	710	1705	2,45	2,41
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	7	6200	2052	46	46
1,310	1,000	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	31.8	0.00	13	14850	15394	1,03	1,04
1,520	850	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9.0	0.00	4	1500	1220	85	81
980	530	JOR. ROADMAT. TRD.	9.0	0.00	3	750	480	66	66
940	530	JOR. SULPHO-CHER.	9.0	0.00	2	700	420	61	60
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	9	2026	2708	1,34	1,34
2,000	1,080	URIV. HOUS. ENDS	9.0	0.00	7	1200	1416	1,18	1,18
1,510	990	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	14.0	9.62	9	3522	3662	1,06	1,04
1,620	1,300	NATL. CHARITIE	14.4	4.58	21	59550	85517	1,54	1,53
1,070	820	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.0	0.00	13	16000	14028	84	84
2,090	1,810	EL. & ZAT READY WEAR	56.0	0.00	29	11100	17381	1,57	1,59
1,310	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	9	7300	8393	1,24	1,15
1,260	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	43.2	0.00	15	6500	6149	93	95
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.77	%CHG: -0.28	205	186022	394498		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 166.05	%CHG: -0.12	344	305627	799383		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 09/08/1997									
710	410	NATL. EXP. RENT. HAIN.	9.0	0.00	1	250	133	56	53
660	410	JOR. TRADE PAC.	10.9	0.00	12	10500	4305	41	41
950	540	JOR. FTR. INV. REFINERY	9.0	0.00	12	20150	11343	58	56
840	660	UNION INV. 501	9.0	0.00	7	90000	9500	69	69
620	370	ARAB FTR. INVEST.	9.0	0.00	21	31250	12513	61	60
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9.0	0.00	5	2100	1807	96	91
950	630	AL-DHULYAN 754	64.3	0.00	8	6550	2781	69	67
750	400	NATL. MFL. ENG. MANICO	34.4	0.00	34	81950	40400	50	49
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	0.00	6	6000	3040	76	76
730	580	NIDEAST PHARM. 751	8.0	0.00	20	16036	6413	64	65
670	550	RACE PHARM. 851	8.0	0.00	3	1300	585	60	60
570	320	INDS. ENG.	9.0	0.00	9	8800	2992	34	34
860	730	INDS. CERAMIC	19.1	0.00	7	4450	3249	74	73
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	8.0	0.00	3	4000	2498	62	63
1,000	730	NAT. ALUMINUM 753	9.0	0.00	10	18450	9225	76	75
860	590	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.8	15.87	23	25500	16095	64	63
GRAND TOTAL					196	285286	124897		

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## WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Suzuki beats the heat and the best to take marathon

ATHENS (AFP) — Hiromi Suzuki of Japan beat the heat and some of the best long distance runners in the world to win the marathon title at the World Championships Saturday.

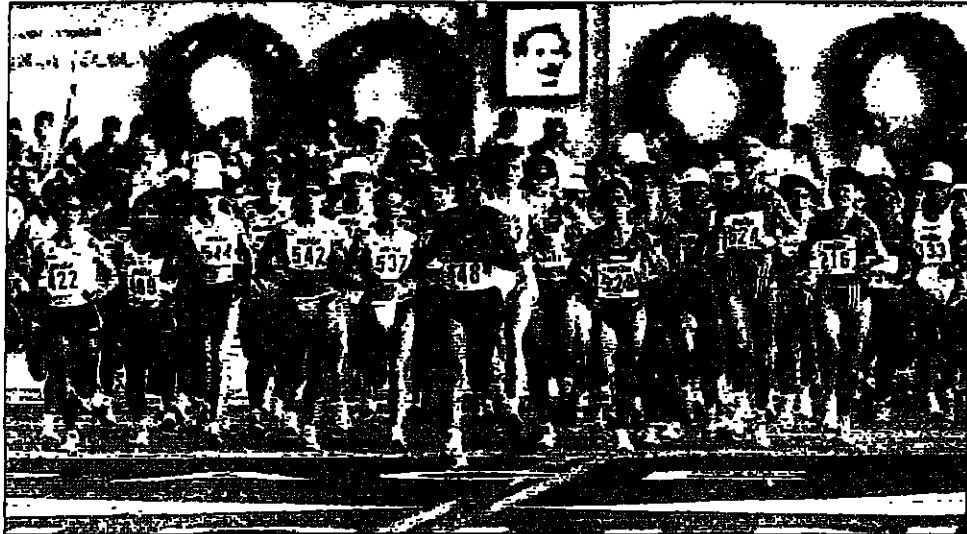
The 28-year-old, who only ran her first marathon a year ago, won in 2 hours 29 mins 48 seconds.

Defending champion Manuela Machado of Portugal had to settle for the silver in 2:31.11 and Lidia Simon of Romania the bronze in 2:31.54.

Suzuki struck at the 27km mark as the leaders hit the brutal final climb before the descent into the Greek capital and the Panathinaikon Stadium.

The tiny Suzuki simply powered away from the much more experienced Machado, who turned 35 on Friday but put her birthday celebrations on hold until after the race.

The three had broken free at the 25km mark and while Suzuki and Machado were looking untroubled the battle for bronze was far from decided.



The field of the women's marathon event starts at the ancient city of Marathon at the World Athletics Championships August 9. Hiromi Suzuki of Japan (L) won the race (Reuters photo)

As Catuna began to slip back, unable to keep up with Suzuki's punishing pace, the courageous Simon took full advantage.

The 23-year-old, who had vomited by the roadside half-way through but continued running, nearly saw her medal slip away when she was overtaken by Japan's Takako Tobise.

The effort to move past Simon had taken too much out of the 23-year-old who could not sustain her pace.

The Romania came back again and the bronze was hers but seconds after crossing the line in the near empty stadium, she collapsed from the effort and was quickly put on a

stretcher and taken away for treatment.

The heartbroken Tobise had to be helped away with tears streaming down her face.

Olympic champion Fatuma Roba of Ethiopia failed to finish, pulling up by the edge of the road at 21 kilometres, clutching her side, and out of the race.

## Athens stadium closed after security scare

ATHENS (AFP) — The women's marathon finished in a near deserted stadium here on Saturday after the mayor of Athens banned the public for security reasons.

Only journalists and a few International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) officials were there to greet Japan's Hiromi Suzuki as she came home to take the gold.

Mayor Dimitris Avramopoulos closed the stadium to the public because of the bomb at the Olympic stadium in Stockholm on Friday, "explained an IAAF spokesman.

The decision to ban the public from the Panathinaikon Stadium, used for the opening ceremony, caught the IAAF by surprise.

"When we got here this morning we could not get in and when we asked we were told of the mayors decision," added the spokesman.

Also surprised were hundreds of spectators who in the end were forced to stand outside to cheer the athletes into the stadium.



Nezha Bidouane of Morocco spreads her arms after crossing the finish line to win the gold medal in the women's 400 metres hurdles event at the World Championships in Athletics. Bidouane won the race in 52.97 seconds (Reuters photo)

## Bidouane delivers Moroccan women a second gold

ATHENS (AFP) — Nezha Bidouane won only the second women's gold medal at a major championship for Morocco when she took the 400 metres hurdles title on Friday, 13 years ago to the day after compatriot Nawal Al Moutakawel won the Olympic title in the same event.

Bidouane was timed at 52.97sec. Olympic champion Deon Hemmings of Jamaica was second in 53.09 with American Kim Batten, the world record holder, third in 53.52.

Bidouane, who had a miserable championships in Gothenburg two years ago when she was disqualified from the heats and then her husband fell in the steeplechase the next day, charged down Hemmings after the final hurdle with batten trailing in third.

"I am so happy to have given Morocco their second women's gold medal and after 14 years. This is a victory for Arab women athletes.

It shows they can beat anyone in the world," 27-year-old Bidouane said.

"I knew all season I would win as I know my adversaries so well.

I aimed my season at this and it has paid off," she added.

"I would like to dedicate this win to King Hassan, Nawal and the people of Morocco," she commented.

Hemmings, who had almost pulled out before her first round heat as she was ill, looked the winner down the straight after she had battled through a headwind in the back straight but she tied up as

Bidouane came alongside of her.

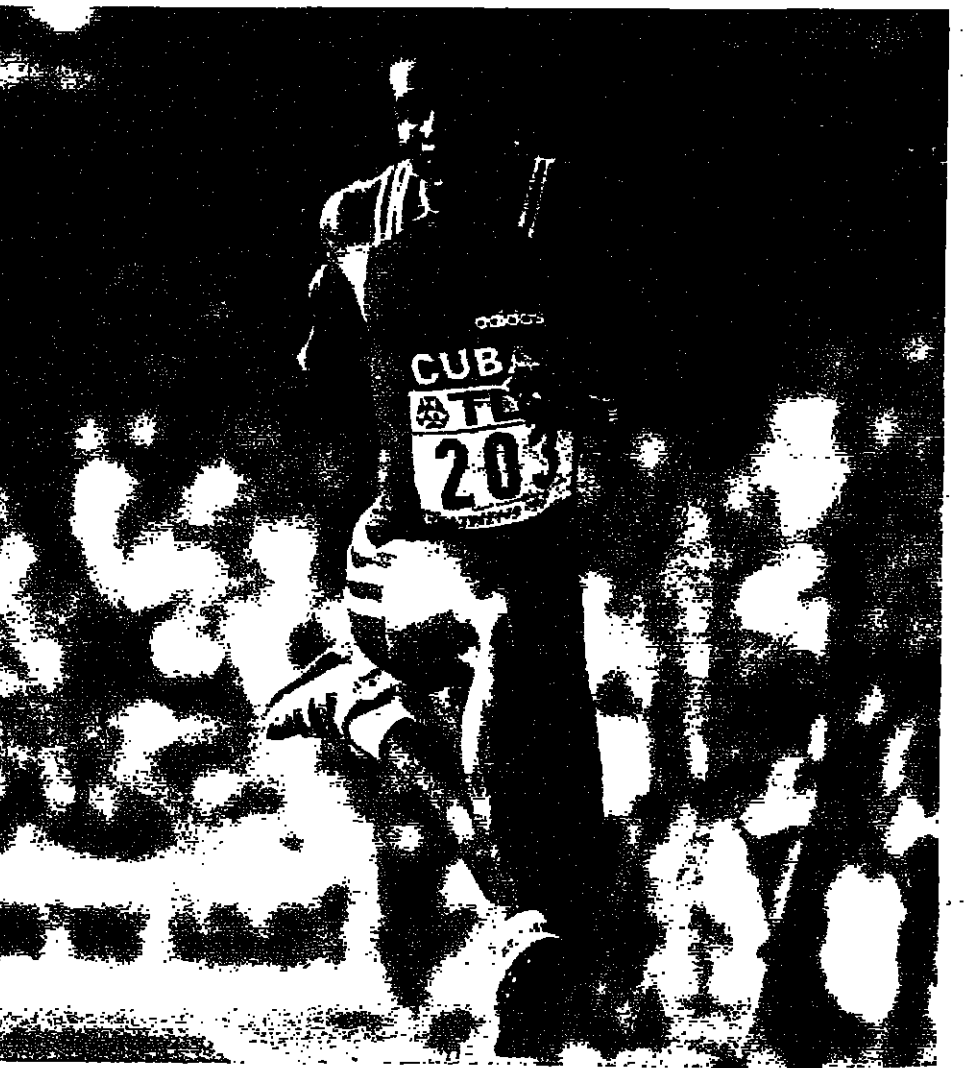
"She (Bidouane) must be good because she's beaten me three times this season! I feel tired, though, I don't feel ill any longer but the headwind really took a lot out of me," the first ever Jamaican female Olympic gold medalist said.

"I was wrong about there being a world record here but I still think that I can break it. These are exciting times," she added.

Batten, who broke Sally Gunnell's world record in the final in Gothenburg, said she had paid for not concentrating on the real target — the gold medal.

"I think Deon and I had our minds on breaking the world record and not winning the race and that was a big mistake. In Gothenburg I went out in a different frame of mind, just to win and the record was a bonus. Tonight I ran a stupid race and paid for it.

"I'm not going to get down. Okay I lost my title but I am still the world record holder. No-one has taken that away," the 28-year-old added.



Yoelvis Quesada of Cuba in action during the final of the men's triple jump event. Quesada won the gold medal with 17.85 metres (Reuters photo)

## Quesada denies Edwards triple jump gold

ATHENS (AFP) — Cuba's Yoelvis Quesada held off world record-holder Jonathan Edwards to win the world championship triple jump here on Friday.

Quesada cleared his winning distance of 17.85 metres with his second jump. Briton Edwards, who trailed in third place, assured himself of the silver with a final jump of 17.69m.

Aliacer Urrutia of Cuba, who at one time held second place, took the bronze with 17.64m.

American Kenny Harrison, the second longest triple jumper in history, failed to make it into the final group of eight jumpers when he could only manage 17.05 after three attempts.

## Baldon and Greene launch attack on Bailey

ATHENS (AFP) — Ato Boldon and Maurice Greene, world champions over 200 and 100 metres respectively, launched a blistering personal attack on Canada's world 100 metres record holder Donovan Bailey here on Saturday — ahead of Sunday's probable showdown in the 4x100 metres relay between the United States and Canada.

Greene, who beat Bailey in Sunday's 100 metres final, said that the American team would thrash the Canadians and break their own world record, 37.40 set in 1992, but it was Bailey who was his target.

"Someone who makes excuses seldom amounts to much," Greene said referring to Bailey's statement that he was not 100 per cent for the championships.

Greene, trying to contain his anger at Bailey who had smiled whenever the American had paid homage to God for Sunday's win, said that the Canadian had not gained any admirers on Sunday and that in the relay he would lose the second world title he came here with.

"We are going to whop the Canadians asses and set a new world record of 36 seconds. They say silver and gold don't go together well I've got a gold and I don't intend on having a silver," Greene added.

Baldon, who took his first major title on Friday, said that though he could not run in the American team as he is Trinidadian he still was on their side — he is a teammate of Greene's and American relay runner John Drummond at John Smith's UCLA set up in California.

"They have the four fastest men ever assembled for a relay. What have the Canadians got? A poor loser who I don't respect," he said.

The Americans have not reacted well to losing both their world crown in 1995, after winning the first four world titles, and then more

humiliatingly the Olympic title in Atlanta last year.

"The Americans are not good losers and they equally don't like it up 'em so now that Maurice Greene has taken one of the titles off Bailey they will be looking for a double dose of revenge," a Canadian official said.

The 28-year-old Drummond, who finished seventh in the 200 metres final, confirmed this.

"This is war. They humiliated us in front of our own American supporters last year and this is payback time," he said.

Bailey, who is still the Olympic champion, was in equally determined mood if a little more down to Earth in how the Canadians were going to win.

"I don't lay down for nobody and I am sure that I speak for all the team when I say if there is a group of people we most want to beat it is the American relay team," he added.

It is not unusual for the Americans to abuse their opponents and two of this year's team have proved adept at it in the past.

Drummond had a nightmare in Gothenburg two years ago when he and a teammate totally fouled up the exchange of batons which led to America being disqualified — a day after he had declared 'America are unbeatable! It's a question of how much we break our own world record by.'

Drummond at least admitted to an error which was more honest than fading sprint star Dennis Mitchell, a three time bronze medalist at the world championships and the Olympics, who could not let the matter rest as to who was best after the Olympic final last year.

"Why are you interviewing them (the Canadian team)? Everyone knows we are still the best. We just had a bad day at the office.

They are the pretenders, we are the champions," Mitchell said.

## Sri Lankan president lauds first medallist in 50 years

COLOMBO (AFP)

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga Saturday congratulated Susanthika Jayasinghe who won silver in the women's 200 metres to bring the country its first medal in world championships in nearly 50 years.

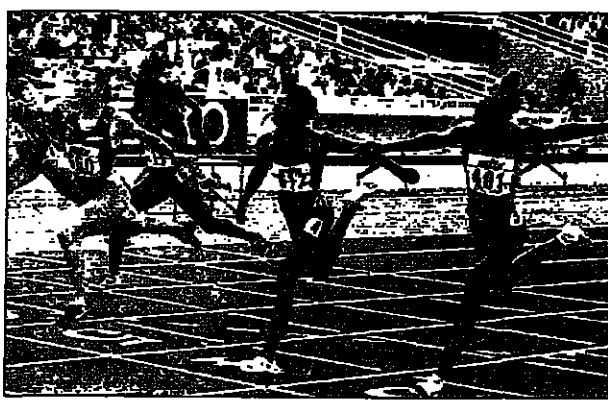
President Kumaratunga telephoned Jayasinghe, 20, in Athens to wish her and thank her for bringing glory to this Indian Ocean island republic now better known for its world cup-winning cricket team.

Jayasinghe was a village girl with modest facilities for training but is currently believed to be Sri Lanka's best hope for a medal at the next Olympic Games.

The only time Sri Lanka won a medal at the Olympics had been in 1948 for a men's track event.

Making her first appearance at the World Championships, Jayasinghe ran the greatest performance of her short life.

"It is 50 years since my country won a medal. All I can promise them is that as I am only 20 now I will win gold in two years time at the next World Championships," said Jayasinghe.



Zhanna Pintushevich (2ndL) of the Ukraine crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the women's 200 metres event. Pintushevich won the race in 22.32 seconds ahead of Susanthika Jayasinghe (2ndR) of Sri Lanka and Merlene Ottey (R) of Jamaica (Reuters photo)

Medals table at the start of the 8th day of competition at the World Athletics Championships on Saturday

Country	G	S	B
United States	5	2	7
Germany	3	1	2
Cuba	3	1	1
Kenya	2	2	1
Morocco	2	0	1
Czech Republic	2	0	0
Ukraine	1	3	1
Poland	1	1	0
Portugal	1	1	0
South Africa	1	1	0
Australia	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0
Ethiopia	1	0	0
France	1	0	0
Italy	1	0	0
New Zealand	1	0	0
Trinidad	1	0	0
Britain	0	4	0
Russia	0	2	3
Jamaica	0	2	1
Spain	0	2	1
Belarus	0	1	2
Canada	0	1	0
Finland	0	1	0
Namibia	0	1	0
Romania	0	1	0
Sri Lanka	0	1	0
Uganda	0	1	0
Bahamas	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1
Greece	0	0	1
Japan	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	1
Slovakia	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	1

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PHILADELPHIA "2"

Jim Carrey ... in

LIAR LIAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Harrison Ford &amp; Brad Pitt...in

DEVIL'S OWN

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

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British Formula One driver Damon Hill adjusts his helmet, during the qualifying for the Hungarian Grand Prix on August 9. Schumacher finished with the fastest time and takes the pole position. Sunday's Grand Prix, Jacques Villeneuve driving a Williams-Renault finished second and world champion Damon Hill in his Yamaha-powered Arrows took the third fastest time (Reuters photo)

## Sampras, Chang advance, as Muster struggles

MASON, Ohio (R) — Top seed Pete Sampras and second seed Michael Chang expended little energy in winning quarter-final matches Friday but fifth seed Thomas Muster had a long struggle against Jan Siemerink at the ATP Championship Friday.

It took Muster two hours, 43 minutes to grind out a 6-7 (1-7) 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-5) against the 36th-ranked Dutchman.

By contrast, Sampras beat seventh-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 6-2 6-2 in a brief 53 minutes and Chang scored a 6-1 6-2 victory over 10th-seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil in 57 minutes.

With the win, Chang reached his sixth consecutive ATP Championship semifinal. He won the title here in 1993 and 1994 and reached the final the past two years.

In a match between Spaniards, 14th-seeded Albert Costa emerged the victor over sixth-seeded Sergi Bruguera when at 4-6

6-3 5-2 Bruguera retired from the match with cramps that started in his left leg. Earlier in the week, Bruguera was experiencing problems with his neck.

The semifinals pit Sampras against the 17th-ranked Costa and Muster against Chang.

Muster holds a 5-2 edge over Chang. Sampras beat Costa both times they played.

Sampras won here in 1992 but lost in the quarter-finals the past two years at the ATP championship.

"I played just about as well as I could. I couldn't play any better," Sampras said. "He, I think, started to press a little bit because he saw me serving very big. I served just about as well as I could serve."

Chang lost to Kuerten 6-3 6-1 in 57 minutes last week in the semifinals at Montreal.

"Last week was Gustavo's time, this week was my time," Chang said. "We played the reverse roles. The matches were almost a

straight reversal."

Six of the eight players in the quarter-finals were ranked in the top 10 in the world — No. 1 Sampras, No. 2 Chang, No. 4 Muster, No. 6 Kafelnikov, No. 8 Bruguera and No. 10 Kuerten. Only Costa and Siemerink are not members of this elite group.

Dealing with Siemerink, a fellow left-hander, was a difficult task for Muster as the Dutchman played serve-and-volley the entire match.

Muster's strategy to lob against Siemerink failed miserably except on the final point of the match, when the Austrian finally hit a winning lob which sailed way over Siemerink's head and too far back to run down.

"I didn't lob well except that last one, maybe the most important one," Muster said. "He puts a lot of pressure on you because he gives you one, two metres where you can pass."

## Blanc on target for Marseille

PARIS (R) — France defender Laurent Blanc rekindled Marseille dreams of a return to past glories as his third goal in two matches gave them a 1-0 home win over Nantes in the French First Division on Friday.

The victory gave former European champions Marseille maximum points along with four other sides, including Metz who went top on goal difference after a 4-1 home rout of Bordeaux with two goals by striker Bruno Rodriguez. Paris St Germain are second after their 3-2 away win over Auxerre on Thursday, ahead of Marseille. Bastia and promoted Toulouse, who both won 1-0.

Champions Monaco had to come from behind to win their first point in two matches in a surprise 2-2 draw at home against Chateauroux after striker Didier Martel scored twice in nine minutes for the Second Division champions. Blanc, the division's top scorer, curled a free kick over the Nantes wall and into the Nantes goal over the despairing dive of teenage goalkeeper Mickael Landreau in the 41st minute, his second free kick success since Saturday.

"We've taken maximum points at home, now people are going to be able to judge our value away," Blanc said. Monaco went ahead in the 40th minute through Chadian forward Japhet N'Doram but needed a 67th minute goal from an overhead kick by another new signing Stephane Carnot to secure a point after Martel had scored with a curling free kick and a low shot early in the second half.

Chateauroux held out for a draw after needing to bring on reserve goalkeeper Eric Loussouarn for Frederic Guegen, who took a knock in the face trying to prevent Carnot's equaliser.

Strasbourg striker David Zitelli became one of seven players to have scored twice in two games when his late goals saw his side come from behind to beat Lens 2-1.

Le Havre bounced back from a 3-1 defeat at Marseille last weekend to crush Montpellier 4-0 at home.

## Hingis wins; Frazier downs Sanchez to reach Acura semis

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (R) — World No. 1 Martina Hingis, playing so well she joked about joining the men's circuit, raced past sixth-seeded Anke Huber 6-3 6-0 Friday night to gain the semifinals of the \$450,000 Acura Classic Friday.

"I felt if I closed my eyes and hit the ball, maybe it would still be in," Hingis said of her blinding 54-minute victory over the ninth-ranked Huber. "I hit some unbelievable shots."

The Swiss 16-year-old will meet defending champion Lindsay Davenport of the United States in the semis. Davenport, the fourth seed, beat unseeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-1 3-6 6-3.

Amy Frazier, meanwhile, surprised fifth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 3-6 6-1 6-3, setting up a clash with second-seeded Monica Seles.

Hingis is playing with so much confidence she speculated about her chances playing against the world's top men.

"Men's tennis is slower than women's tennis, they just have better serves," she jibed.

When asked if she could rally against the likes of Thomas Muster and Michael Chang, she replied: "They would kill me. They play with so much power. I would rather play someone like Boris Becker. Someone who likes to have short rallies. But he would have to have one serve."

Hingis stretched her career mark to 6-1 against Huber but not before engaging in some sparkling rallies, until Huber began to unravel in the second set, falling behind 0-3.

"There were three games I didn't put the ball back in," Huber said of her collapse. "I got a little crazy and stopped playing. I wasn't on the court any-



Amy Frazier of the U.S. makes the two-handed return against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain August 8 in the quarterfinals of the Acura Classic. Frazier beat Vicario 3-6 6-1 6-3 (Reuters photo)

more."

Huber has seen a boost in Hingis's confidence since the teen became World No. 1 on March 31. "She's even more confident than in March. When she's hitting the ball, it's like she's closing her eyes and it's going in. She doesn't play especially fast and doesn't move great. She's just there when it's important."

"You always think the important points you have to do something special but she doesn't miss."

Davenport allowed Tauziat just 11 points in the 20-minute opening set. But the seventh-ranked American was unable to keep up the torrid pace as Tauziat evened the match.

"I played unbelievable in the first set, but stopped returning well and missed a ton of serves," said Davenport of the second-set lapse.

The 1996 Olympic gold medalist regained her form in the deciding set, breaking twice for a 4-0 lead before holding on to nail down the one-hour, 24-minute win.

"It's always nice to be able to start over again once you lose it, especially in the third," she said. "I was able to regroup, hold my serve easily, and break right away to pull it out."

It's a big win — the semifinals. Davenport knows it won't be easy against Hingis.

"She's got great hands and you always have to be prepared that when you hit a good shot, she's going to hit a good shot back."

Sanchez Vicario has had difficulty closing out matches recently, and has slipped to eighth in the rankings as a consequence. Frazier's punishing groundstrokes, which produced 25 winners and 31 unforced errors, contributed to her departure.

## YWCA hosts USPTA Little Tennis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The YWCA in Amman will host a new national tennis programme to introduce young children to the sport in a fun, group environment. The programme offers athletic instruction and social activities for children of various ages, and is organised by local tennis-teaching professionals.

USPTA Little Tennis, a unique series of tennis activities and leagues for children, is beginning on Sept. 5th, 1997, for a duration of 12 weeks.

The Programme combines group lessons, fun activities, tennis carnival, leagues, with modified equipment along with parents and teaching professionals who join in the common goal of athletically developing children, ages 3 to 10.

USPTA Little Tennis is designed by the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA), the World's oldest and largest Association of tennis-teaching professionals.

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## JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO., TENDER NOS. 6,7,8/97 UPGRADING OF AMMAN, SALADIN AND ZARQA LPG FILLING STATION PROJECTS

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. announces the extension of the a.m. tender according to the following dates:

- Submission of prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hrs of 13.9.1997 at the company Head Office.
- Eligible contractors to obtain tender documents from the company's head office against non-refundable JD200 per set. Not later than 12:30 hrs of 22.9.1997
- Offers must be submitted at the company's head office with an alternative offer with finance not later than 12:00 hrs of Sunday 19.10.1997.

Chairman



## JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY COMPANY LTD. AMMAN - JORDAN TENDER INVITATION FOR BIDDING TENDER NO. 10/97 UPGRADING OF LPG CYLINDERS FACTORY PROJECT

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces Tender Invitation No. 10/97 for the design, supply, installation (excluding civil works) and commissioning of "Upgrading LPG Cylinders Factory (cylinder capacity 26.2 litre) Project" at Zarqa which includes all materials, machines and equipment required for the above mentioned project.

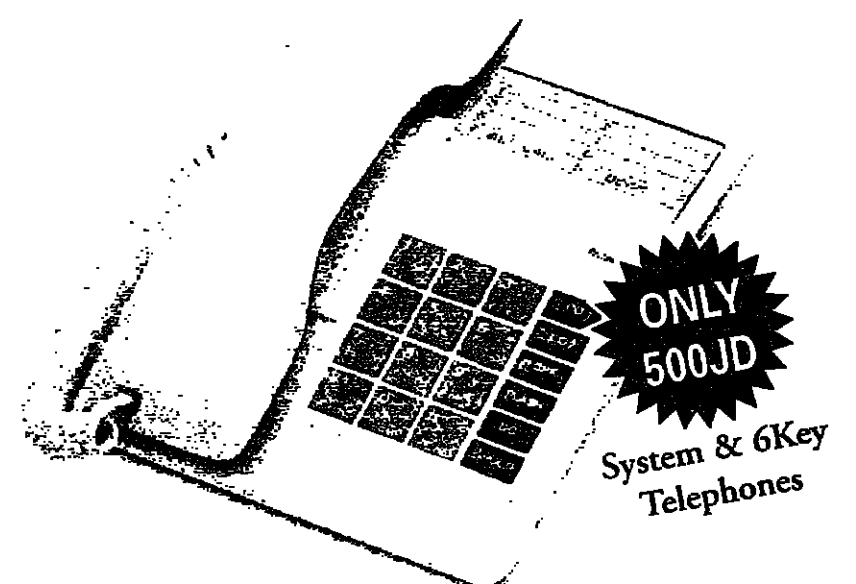
The tender(s) is to be submitted on the basis of a "lump sum fixed price job" for the detailed design, supply of equipment and materials, installation, inspection, testing and commissioning of the project. Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle, Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD(100) per set, not later than 12:30 hrs of 20/9/1997. Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically, and who wish to participate in the above tender, are invited to submit their offers at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs of 9/11/1997. With an alternative offer with finance.

Tenders should include with their offers the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor (financial references latest 3 annual reports to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms, for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost and completion periods.

Chairman Board of Directors

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## Iranian ruling factions squabble over Khatami's new government

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's ruling factions squabbled openly over the line-up of President Mohammad Khatami's new cabinet Saturday, a day ahead of its presentation to the deeply conservative parliament.

Islamic radicals, back in power under Mr. Khatami after eight years out in the cold, accused Islamic conservatives of pressuring Mr. Khatami to prevent him choosing "revolutionaries" as his ministers.

"Over the past few days, those who lost the last elections are putting pressure on Mr. Khatami on his choice of ministers," said Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a spokesman for the radical faction.

"Our concern is that he cannot choose colleagues capable of achieving programmes desired by a billion Muslims in the world," said Mr. Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who is close to Mr. Khatami.

The radicals, who make up the headline wing of Mr. Khatami's leftist-moderate power base, fear the conservatives are trying to keep them out of the cabinet.

Mr. Khatami, 54, who was sworn in Monday after a stunning victory in May presidential elections, is to present his cabinet list to parliament for approval Sunday.

The assembly, which is dominated by conservatives including Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri whom Mr. Khatami defeated in the election, will have one week

to consider the list. Mr. Khatami has reportedly broken with tradition by appointing the first woman as a vice president since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Getting his line-up through parliament is the first challenge for Mr. Khatami, a former culture minister and relative moderate who was swept to victory on a platform of social and economic change.

Radical newspapers, criticising an earlier decision to retain Hassan Habibi as first vice president, urged the new president to have the courage of his convictions Saturday.

"Mr. Khatami must satisfy the hopes of the people who voted for him and overcome the obstacles preventing him from appointing a strong government," the daily Salam wrote.

However, the conservatives appear to have won some victories already by threatening to reject controversial choices of minister when they come before parliament.

A proposal to appoint Mohammad Mussavi-Khoeni, a radical and former spokesman of the hostage-takers at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, as intelligence minister has been ruled out under conservative pressure, newspapers close to Mr. Khatami reported.

"The problem of the intelligence minister has not yet been resolved and the ministry has no minister," the weekly Bahman said

### Iran's president appoints first woman to senior post

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has named Massoumeh Ebtekar to the post of vice-president in charge of protecting the environment, the first time a woman has held such a post since the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iran News reported Saturday.

Ms. Ebtekar, 36, will also become director of the Iranian Organisation for the Protection of the Environment, the newspaper said.

Mr. Khatami is due to present his cabinet list Sunday to Iran's conservative-dominated parliament, which then has a week to approve the appointments.

A former journalist, doctor specialising in immunology and a university professor, Ms. Ebtekar has been a member of official Iranian delegations to several international organisations.

Married with two sons, Ms. Ebtekar spent her first years of study in the United States, Iran News said.

Women, young people and intellectuals came out in force to give their support to Mr. Khatami in May's presidential election which he won with an unprecedented 69 per cent of the vote.

Saturday.

Conservatives have also threatened to withhold their confidence from moderate Ataollah Mohajeri, a vice president who has been put forward as culture minister, and from radical MP Abdullah Nouri who has been tipped as interior minister.

Moderate supporters of Mr. Khatami say the conservative spoiling campaign against the new government is not only limited to the political arena.

They accuse the conservative-dominated judiciary of ordering a wave of arrests of officials close to Tehran's moderate mayor, Gholam

Hussein Karbastshi, as part of a political campaign.

Islamic conservatives not only dominate parliament and the judiciary, they also have a tight grip on other state institutions such as public radio and television.

Mr. Khatami is also certain to face challenges from the headline paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last word on all political and religious decisions.

In an apparent call for unity between rival factions within the ruling clergy, Mr. Khatami called Monday for "close cooperation between all of the institutions" of the government.



PHOENICIAN HISTORY UNRAVELLED: A Lebanese worker cleans the remnants of a Phoenician cemetery found in the southern Lebanese ancient port city of Tyre, the first such discovery in the Eastern Mediterranean coasts (AFP photo)

## Yemeni tribesmen abduct Italian man

SANAA (AP) — Armed Yemeni tribesmen have kidnapped an Italian tourist, the Italian embassy said Saturday.

Giorgio Bonanomi, a 49-year-old graphic artist from Merate in northern Italy, was abducted by tribesmen Wednesday, an embassy spokesman said.

It was the second kidnapping of Italian tourists in two weeks.

The embassy received a letter from Mr. Bonanomi Friday saying he was being treated well and was in good health, spokesman Roberto Visperini said.

Mr. Bonanomi was travelling with six other tourists

from Rada, some 130 kilometres southeast of Sanaa, when armed kidnappers from the Dhabin tribe stopped their four-wheel vehicle and snatched him.

Mr. Bonanomi was easiest to grab because he was sitting next to the driver, Mr. Visperini said.

Government negotiators have begun talks with the tribe for the release of Mr. Bonanomi, officials said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. They did not say what the tribe was demanding for his release.

Yemeni tribes have frequently kidnapped tourists, oil workers and diplomats

to press their demands for money or government financing of projects. The tourists have all been released unharmed.

Two Italian tourists were kidnapped on July 26 and released 36 hours later. They said they had been well-treated in captivity and continued their sightseeing trip before leaving the country.

This year, tribesmen also have seized an American and 11 Germans. All were released unharmed.

Yemen, a country on the southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula, is one of the Arab world's poorest countries.

## Nurses' lawyers aim to silence family to escape beheadings

RIYADH (AFP) — Lawyers of two British nurses accused of killing an Australian colleague are to step up efforts in a Saudi court Sunday to have the victim's family barred from pressing for the women to be beheaded if convicted.

On the eve of the trial resuming after a two-week break, the defence welcomed an Australian court's ruling to slap a temporary injunction on victim Yvonne Gilford's brother from repeating his calls for the nurses' execution.

The court Friday also ordered that the defence be given copies of the medical records of Yvonne's elderly mother, Muriel Gilford, the lawyers said.

This evidence will be submitted to the Islamic court in the eastern Saudi city of Khobar Sunday, as part of efforts to have the family excluded from giving its verdict, said the Salah Hejailan firm.

Under the Islamic laws of Sharia, the family has the right to spare the lives of convicted killers of their relatives and instead accept "blood money" — an option which brother Frank Gilford has so far ruled out.

The Riyadh-based law firm which initiated the trial within a trial for the nurses, who have been behind bars for the last eight months, hailed the Australian court's ruling against Frank Gilford as "a

major breakthrough."

Muriel Gilford, who lives in a nursing home, is said to have Alzheimer's disease and the defence has argued that she is mentally incompetent to rule on the issue of execution.

The state supreme court in Adelaide gave its verdict after hearing that, under Saudi law, a call for the death penalty by a victim's family must be unanimous.

Frank Gilford has said he represents both himself and his mother — the victim's closest surviving relatives — through a power of attorney. But the defence challenged its validity because of her mental health.

If the family is ruled out of making a decision because of the mother, a "guardian" could be appointed in Australia but the death sentence would no longer be an option, according to the Hejailan firm.

It is regrettable that Frank Gilford and his lawyers in Saudi Arabia, the Riyadh-based international law firm, "forced us to apply to the supreme court to obtain these orders," said the statement from the Salah Hejailan firm. "We hope Frank Gilford and his lawyers will withdraw their aggressive demands for the death penalty which have been repeated throughout the trial and before the Sharia court has even reached a verdict in this tragic case."

McLauchlan, 31, and Parry, 41, were arrested after the killing last December of Yvonne Gilford, a 55-year-old senior theatre nurse at the King Fahd military medical complex in Dhahran, near Khobar.

The Britons deny killing their colleague and say they were forced to make signed confessions under threat of sexual mistreatment from interrogators.

Michael Dark of the Hejailan firm told Britain's domestic press agency PA news that the Saudi court would now "say there can be no unanimous decision made because Mrs. Gilford cannot make this decision as she is not competent. Or it might be decided that some sort of guardian should be appointed to make the decision on her behalf."

Mr. Dark said he hoped the trial, which opened on May 19 and has been adjourned several times to clarify the status of the Gilford family, would be over "in a matter of weeks rather than months."

But another of the nurses' lawyers, Dick Whittington, told the court in South Australia that the women could be convicted and sentenced Sunday.

A lawyer for the Gilfords, Michael Boylan, argued that the request for the injunction was an attempt to interfere in the Saudi proceedings and an abuse of legal process.

## Across hill and dale, Palestinians attempt to elude Israel's iron wall

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — It took four days, but Sonia Sawafat managed to elude the toughest Israeli closure ever on the occupied territories to get from her West Bank home to Jerusalem to nurse her hospitalised child.

Over dirt roads, through mountains and valleys, by car and by donkeys, Palestinians have tried to find ways to move, go shopping and even get married amid a maze of Israeli military checkpoints.

Ms. Sawafat, 20, told Agence France Presse she gave birth to her daughter Manal a week before the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem which killed 15 people and led Israel to impose a seal on the occupied territories and a closure between the West Bank's towns and villages.

Manal was born with a birth defect — a closed trachea — and Ms. Sawafat took her to Jerusalem and left her in hospital for an operation.

But while Manal lay in the recovery ward and Ms. Sawafat waited at home, the closure descended and trapped Ms. Sawafat inside her home village near Nablus in the northern West Bank.

"For three days I tried everything. I went to the checkpoint outside my village every day and explained to the soldiers my situation. Then I wept, then I begged. But the answer was always, no," she said.

Finally she changed tactics. By foot, she sneaked around the checkpoint out of the soldiers' sight, found a car on the main road to take her as close to Jerusalem as possible, then

walked around the Jerusalem checkpoint the same way.

"I reached the hospital, where I found they had brought a 'temporary mother' to nurse Manal. So I spent the day there taking care of her," she said. Israel has imposed closures periodically on the territories since 1993 and the Palestinians have over time come up with creative solutions for dealing with the numerous checkpoints which dot the West Bank.

But the seal imposed by Israel for the past 10 days is the harshest ever, with even back roads blocked by temporary barriers cutting off one Palestinian village from another.

"This is the toughest we've ever faced, even since the intifada," the 1987-1993 uprising against the occupation, said Suhail Shaaban, 43, who as a Bethlehem cab driver has to face daily the problems of transportation in the West Bank.

In response, Palestinians have set up "bypass roads." Narrow dirt trails through the mountains which have hardly been trod by a human foot for years now see caravans of cars inching along them.

The Israeli army has fought back by using airplanes to scout out the tracks which bulldozers then block with concrete blocks or mounds of dirt.

But the cat and mouse game moves on as the Palestinians find another route even further out of the way.

Or they change means of transport to go from village to village, relying on the trusty donkey.

Palestinian papers reported

that Israeli soldiers attacked two 13-year-old boys who tried to "infiltrate" past their checkpoint on a donkey, carrying food into their village.

The boys were beaten. The offending donkey took a blow from a rifle butt, the paper said.

For many, the simple feat of moving from village to village has become a "victory over attempts to subjugate and humiliate" the Palestinians, as Mahmoud Rajih, a newlywed from Silwad, a village east of Ramallah, put it.

Mr. Rajih slipped past innumerable checkpoints to reach the village of Kharbata, west of Ramallah, to fetch his bride then return with her and her guests to his village for their wedding.

Similarly Halima Subh, 55, said she insisted on walking the 10 kilometres across valley and hill every day from her home village to Bethlehem with her basket of vegetables for sale in the market.

"I won't let anyone starve me and my children to death," she said.

Israel eased the closure Friday, allowing motion in and out of two West Bank cities, Nablus and Jericho, and through border crossings to Jordan and Egypt.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to keep the bulk of sanctions in place until the Palestinian National Authority steps up its fight against anti-Israeli radicals.

Palestinian officials have said the closure causes economic losses of between \$7 and \$9 million per day.

## Islamists kill 14 civilians in Algeria — papers

PARIS (R) — Suspected Islamist guerrillas have killed 14 civilians by cutting their throats or heads in four attacks across Algeria this week, Algerian newspapers said Saturday.

Four girls, one woman and three men were killed, their heads cut off, in a rebel attack Thursday in Ouled Yahia village in Taret province, 240 kilometres southeast of Algiers, Al Watan and Liberte newspapers said.

Suspected rebels slashed the throats of two shepherds, aged 17 and 22, in the same day in Bab Taza in the province of Tiencem, about 440 kilometres west Algiers, they said.

A truck driver and his assistant were killed in the same way near the town of Bou-Saada, some 200 kilometres south of Algiers, the newspapers said.

Two other civilians were killed Wednesday in Oued Djer province, in Ain Defla province, some 130 kilometres southwest of Algiers, the newspapers said.

The latest killings brought to more than 1,000 the number of people reported slaughtered in a series of mass killings since June 5, when Algeria held a general election which voters and officials hoped would help usher in peace and stability.

Most of the dead, around 700, were civilians, but Algerian newspapers also said that 300 rebels were killed in a two-week government military offensive in July.

Algeria's President Liamine Zerrouk, speaking against a background of years of bloodshed which Algerian officials blame on Islamists, told a police meeting Thursday that his country had made "heavy sacrifices in its struggle against the forces of evil."

About 60,000 people have been killed in the North African country since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

## Somali leaders slip out for peace

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Three top lieutenants of Somali warlord Hussein Mohammed Eideed slipped across the green line to an arch-rival's stronghold and took a flight out the country to discuss a peace initiative, a witness said Saturday.

General Elmi Sahal Ali, Gen. Eideed's police commander, and two other close aides slipped into north Mogadishu and flew to Djibouti from Aisley airstrip, controlled by north Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohammed's Somali Salvation Alliance Faction, a Somali journalist who was on the scene said.

General Ali, along with Gen. Aided's foreign policy chief Mohammed Warsame "Kimiko" and Ali Mohamed Ali "Ugas Ali," a prominent clan elder and deputy governor of Gen. Eideed's controlled part of south Mogadishu, were flying to Djibouti for talks with people from Bossaso in northeast Somalia who are opposed to peace initiatives by Ethiopia.

These initiatives were due to be concluded in Bossaso next November by 26 Somali factions, including Ali Mahdi, who first met and forged a peace accord in the Ethiopian tourist resort of Sodere, 200 kilometres east of the capital

Addis Ababa last January. Ali Mahdi is in Addis Ababa for talks with Ethiopian leaders and the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, Ismat Kittani, to persuade the international community to give logistic support to the Bossaso conference. The conference is bitterly opposed by Eideed's faction and the breakaway republic of Somaliland.

Ali Mahdi and his colleagues were Gen. Eideed's highest-ranking aides to use the Aisley airstrip, 20 kilometres north of Mogadishu, since the Somali civil war erupted 1991 after the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre.

### Indian woman wins husband with protest

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian villager has forced her lover to marry her after camping outside his house for more than two weeks, a newspaper reported here Saturday. The Asian Age said B.C. Anitha, who claimed Putte Gowda was the father of her one-year-old child, refused to budge from outside his village home near Bangalore in the southern state of Karnataka. The 18-year-old had been sitting on the side of the road since July 23, it said. She was later joined by women activists supporting her case.

### British child bride says marriage to waiter is over

ANKARA (AP) — The marriage of a British child bride and a Turkish waiter is over, the 14-year-old bride said in an interview published Saturday. Sir Cook, now the mother of a nine-month-old son, told the daily Hurriyet that she would not return to Turkey and her husband, Musa Komeagac. She complained that her husband, Musa Komeagac, 18, had refused to let her go anywhere, not "even the movies or the park." When he was out, he phoned home constantly to make sure she was there, Cook said.

### Garth Brooks didn't measure up in the Big Apple

NEW YORK (AFP) — Country music's biggest star, Garth Brooks, brought a free sample of his foot-stompin' fun to the Big Apple but failed to dent the hostility of the city's media watchdogs. Brooks gave a heavily promoted free concert in central park Thursday, filmed for broadcast by the cable television station HBO and ostentatiously endorsed by New York's publicity-avid Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. But hopes within the Brooks Organisation of winning over the hearts and minds of the most culture-conscious urban community in America was punctured by the caustic sting of Friday's reviews.

### Cornish recognised as official language — report

LONDON (AFP) — The Cornish language, spoken in the fishing communities in the far west of England until the end of the last century, has been given official recognition by the British examination authorities. The Independent reported Saturday that students will now be able to sit public exams in the language, which has Celtic origins and dates from medieval times. The number of people who can speak Cornish in the world is thought to be less than 1,000.

### Former Reagan security agent guilty of sex charges

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A former secret service agent who helped protect former President Ronald Reagan was found guilty Friday of having sex with a minor and of drug possession. Timothy John O'Brien, 38, was found guilty by a jury here just under a week of deliberations. He faces a possible sentence of five years in prison. O'Brien served on Reagan's security detail at the former president's residence here when he was arrested last December. He was found guilty of having sex for about a month with the 16-year-old daughter of his best friend and of possessing drugs.

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